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'ARAFAT RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS

JN2SL040Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander in Chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, returned to Beirut last night after participating in the third conference of steadfastness and confrontation which concluded its meetings in Damascus 2 days ago.

Brother Abu 'Ammar played an effective role in making this conference a success and in adopting positive resolutions.

LONDON PAPER REPORTS ON DAMASCUS STEADFASTNESS CONFERENCE

LD2218Z4Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Excerpt] Damascus--Special ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT dispatch--Among the matters discussed at the second session of the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation was the question of approaching the Soviet Union and the other Arab countries.

From the first meeting, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi showed great enthusiasm for the idea that the conference should form a high-level delegation to go to the Soviet Union in order to find out about the practical stands of the Russians in the face of the Camp David results.

Although the idea was met with some support by certain delegations, it was countered by another idea--which Syria backed--calling for also contacting the other Arab parties, particularly Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Reliable information indicates that Yasir 'Arafat has acquainted the conference with the information received from Abu Mazin, who went to Saudi Arabia. According to the information, the Saudis have adopted their stand on the basis of their firm view of the nature of the peace that must be established in the area which centers on the Palestinian problem as being the core of the conflict and the key to the solution.

With regard to the united Palestinian stand at the conference, Dr George Habash arrived in Damascus together with the delegation of the Palestinian leadership, as ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT indicated earlier. The only one absent from the conference was 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary of the pro-Iraqi Palestine Liberation Front. The reasons for his absence were more Iraqi than Palestinian. Another person absent was Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, who is in the hospital in Beirut following a surgical operation in his spinal column.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the conference of steadfastness and confrontation is concentrating on three matters:

First, the conference is concentrating on setting up permanent coordination bureaus for political and military affairs. The conference has before it several proposals, including a Palestinian-Syrian proposal calling for the establishment of a unified military command committee for the conference whose preliminary task would be to deal with all the surprises that might crop up after the Camp David agreement.

Second, the conference is concentrating on developing political coordination between the countries of steadfastness and confrontation to the level of adopting a single strategy in the coming stage and thus elevating the role of the conference from being just a reaction to one of action.

Third, the conference is concentrating on a collective and individual approach, first toward the Arab countries, second toward the Islamic world, and third toward the socialist camp and Europe.

PLO OFFICES IN FRANCE, BELGIUM REACT TO CARTER STATEMENT

LD251744Y Brussels Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Excerpt] Mr Begin described the PLO as a barbaric, Nazi organization, which to some extent recalls similar remarks made on Saturday by U.S. President Carter, who compared the PLO to racist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan or to small Nazi groupings.

On this subject, there have been two reactions today from the PLO's representatives in France and Belgium. Mr (Ibrahim Sousse), the PLO representative in France, sees in Mr Carter's statement a desire to defame the PLO and attack the dignity of the Palestinian people. As for the PLO office in Brussels, it describes President Carter's statements as odious and irresponsible. It is an insult, says Na'im Khadir, the PLO representative in Brussels, to all the countries which have recognized our organization; it is also proof that in Mr Carter's view the PLO constitutes the main obstacle to establishing the Pax Americana in the Middle East.

FATAH OFFICIALS COMMENT ON CARTER STATEMENT ON PLO

JN241602Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 24 September--A number of PLO leaders have denounced the statements of U.S. President Carter regarding the PLO. Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, has affirmed that the PLO will take the position of both defense and attack at the same time. He further said: Despite the fact that we are a small people, we are large within our Arab nation because we represent the conscience of this nation. In a statement published today by the newspaper TISHRIN, Salah Khalaf added: We will not be shaken or intimidated by such statements and will carry on with our struggle until victory and liberation.

The daily also published a statement of Khalid al-Hasan, [Fatah Central Committee member], in which he said: Carter's statements prove to you how big the Camp David plot is and how correct the political and militant stand of the Palestinian people--whether inside or outside the occupied territories--is. Khalid al-Hasan added: our people cannot join any efforts which ignore their rights and do not achieve peace, but whose aims are to impose security with force--a dictatorial practice based on police suppression.

PFLP'S HABASH HAILS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

JN221435Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1255 GMT 22 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 22 September--Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has affirmed that the confrontation in the new stage should be based on a political decision to take the offensive.

This decision should also support the Palestinian revolution to enable it to mobilize all the resources of the Palestinian people and provide total support and backing for Syria to enable it to mobilize for the decisive and fateful Arab battle to liberate the occupied land.

In a statement to the newspaper TISHRIN, Dr Habash called on the states of steadfastness and confrontation to provide Syria with resources and potentials and make it the base to which will flow the potentials and resources of all the states and forces which reject capitulation and which are radically repulsing the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance.

Dr Habash said: Despite all the obstacles, serious attempts should continue so that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will concentrate all the forces confronting the conspiracy which is being peddled on the Palestinian and Lebanese land aimed at striking and crushing everything which is nationalist, progressive and revolutionary in the Arab arena. Habash added: Despite all the difficulties which obstruct this operation, the development of the battle on one hand and the continued exertion of efforts on the other will guarantee the future realization of this operation.

Dr Habash announced that the Palestinian revolution--of which the PFLP forms a part--and Syria today meet for two essential battles, namely, the battle of confronting the imperialist-Zionist settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict and the battle of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese masses against the isolationist scheme in Lebanon.

Dr Habash pointed out that the Zionist-isolationist scheme in Lebanon aims at striking the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, as well as at bleeding Syria on Lebanese soil in order to force it to kneel and drag it into the course of capitulation along which As-Sadat is marching. He said that these two battles which the Palestinian revolution and Syria are waging are the most important battles of the Palestinian revolution. Thus the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Syria are in one trench in the battle.

Dr Habash affirmed that the PFLP views its relations with the brethren in Syria in a responsible and serious manner. The PFLP will do its utmost to insure that these relations are based on foundations of clarity, frankness and rallying together in the service of the common objectives on which they agree today.

Dr Habash added: The Arab masses, which are witnessing the butchery and sellout of their most sacred cause at Camp David, have the right to judge our current conference in Damascus in light of the ensuing stands and resolutions and in light of the resulting tangible and concrete measures which will reflect positively on the movement of the Palestinian, Lebanese and other Arab masses in confronting the Zionist-imperialist enemy who is in total cohesion with the reactionary forces, represented by As-Sadat's regime at this stage, in conspiring against the Arab nation.

PFLP-GC'S JIBRIL PRAISES DAMASCUS CONFERENCE RESULTS

JN241407Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 September--Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has affirmed that the steadfastness conference in Damascus was an important cornerstone in confronting the schemes of imperialism, Zionism and capitulation.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent at the end of the third conference of the Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, Jibril said that the Arab nation has no choice but to confront these capitulationist schemes. He added that the Damascus conference was the reply to these schemes. He said that the results of the conference will soon be translated into effective measures to confront the capitulationist schemes drawn up at the Camp David conference.

Jibril concluded his statement by asserting that U.S. imperialism, as well as Zionism and its agents, will not be able to obliterate the Palestinian Arab people's rights nor will they be able to stop the flow of history. Moreover, he said, we are sure of victory.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH ON CAMP DAVID, ARAB COUNTERACTIONS

JN2415362Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 24 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 September--Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], yesterday made a statement to Syrian television in which he gave his opinion on the results of the Camp David conference and the firm countermeasures taken by the conference of steadfastness and confrontation to foil these results and face the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation.

Asked how he views the situation in the Arab region in the wake of the Camp David resolutions and in light of the discussions at the conference of steadfastness and confrontation, Hawatimah said: The Camp David results have placed before us serious developments with regard to the Palestine question. The separate bilateral agreement between As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy state has taken Egypt, under As-Sadat, completely out of the struggle and confrontation with the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. The As-Sadat regime has moved to the position of a tripartite Israeli-American-As-Sadat alliance against the Arab nation. The price for withdrawal from the Sinai sands has become the liquidation of the Palestine question and the sale of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza to Israeli occupation under so-called self-rule. In one go, As-Sadat sold Arab rights in Jerusalem, Palestine and the Golan, and perhaps even the Egyptian people themselves.

Hawatimah continued: We are now faced with a new hostile tripartite alliance in which Israel takes charge of Middle Eastern affairs, backed by the intrigues of American imperialism and the As-Sadat regime, and the As-Sadat regime takes charge of the affairs of North Africa, or of the whole of Africa.

Hawatimah said it is in these new circumstances that the third summit conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation met in Damascus to make the front equal to the new situation, which saw the birth of the tripartite As-Sadat-Zionist-American alliance. The conference discussed the means to strengthen Syria's national and pan-Arab stands as well as its ability to face the enemy, protect the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, resist the large-scale aggressive plans in Lebanon, improve the military, financial and political capabilities of the steadfastness front on the Lebanese and Palestinian fronts, and strengthen our relations with world progressive forces, especially the socialist bloc countries, so that our just Arab national cause can face this international aggression with equal strength.

Asked about the best means and ways to support Syria, Hawatimah said: Following As-Sadat's criminal and treasonous move, Syria now is practically and objectively the main base of struggle against the enemy. Therefore, it behooves all the steadfast Arab forces, represented by the front of steadfastness, to prepare forces in order to back Syria and the Palestinian revolution and to strengthen strategic ties with the friendly international front, especially the socialist bloc countries. This should enable struggler Syria to face and foil the Camp David plans and eventually move to the phase of actual confrontation.

Hawatimah added: We must point out clearly here that the plan of Israel, American imperialism and As-Sadat now is to try to drown Syria in Lebanon and to deal a crushing blow to the Palestinian revolution and the PLO, because they know that as long as Syria is standing firmly on its feet and the Palestinian revolution, represented by the PLO, has the support of the Palestinian people, the Camp David plan will not be carried out but will stop at the Egyptian-Israeli border.

Regarding the Syrian-Palestinian front, Hawatimah said in conclusion, the steadfastness of Syria and the Palestinian revolution will prevent the achievement of any hostile objectives against the Syrian forces and the Palestinian revolution forces in the Lebanese arena, which will see the beginning of the foiling of the results of the Camp David conspiracy.

Further Remarks

JN2510l0Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 25 September--Nayif Hawatimah, Secretary General of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], has stressed that the outcome of the Damascus Conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation will be more advanced than those of the Tripoli and Algiers conferences.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH published here today, Hawatimah stressed that the current stage requires utmost cohesion at the level of Arab steadfastness so as to contain the repercussions of the conspiracy and confront the danger facing the Arab nation.

Hawatimah said that the front of steadfastness believes that there is no chance of regaining as-Sadat to the Arab ranks because he has fallen completely in the lap of the United States.

Hawatimah said that the Baghdad rulers' refusal to join the front of steadfastness is a negative and mistaken stand.

He said that all the parties are now agreed on a unified and common political ground aimed at cementing inter-Palestinian relations.

In answer to a question on the current contacts between the PLO and Jordan, Hawatimah said that if Jordan stands on the side of the front of steadfastness, completely rejects the Camp David agreements and coordinates militarily with the Palestinian revolution, we will welcome it in harmony with the commitment to the Rabat summit resolutions which stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

KUWAIT

ALFRED ATHERTON ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

Meets With Amir

LD251200Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] At 0915 this morning his highness the amir received Mr Alfred Atherton, U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegation. He discussed with his highness, may God protect him, present developments in the Arab region. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, defense minister and acting foreign minister, and the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

Meets Prime Minister

LD251202Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] At 1030 his highness the crown prince and prime minister received His Excellency Mr Alfred Atherton, U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, minister of defense and acting foreign minister; Under Secretary Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz ar-Rashid; and by his excellency the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

Departs, Makes Statement

LD251204Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Alfred Atherton, U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, left Kuwait late this morning after a 1-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Raysal as-Salah al-Mutawwa', director of the protocol section of the ministry; and by the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

In a declaration to newsmen prior to his departure, Atherton said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had asked him, after his visit to Amman, Riyadh and Damascus, to go to Kuwait and brief his highness the amir on the results of the Camp David meeting and discuss any progress that might be made in the issue of peace talks which, he said, he believes possible. He added that he stressed to the amir the determination of the United States to find a peaceful and just solution for all the parties to the dispute in the region.

Mr Atherton described his talks in Kuwait as useful. He said that he did everything possible to answer the questions of his highness the amir and government concerning U.S. policy on the Camp David agreements. He added that he listened to the point of view of the amir and his government and will convey this point of view to the U.S. Government. Atherton also voiced his gratitude and pleasure at visiting Kuwait.

Answering a question, he said that the Camp David agreements made clear and reaffirmed that the text of UN Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all the Arab occupied territories and that the agreements are in accordance with this resolution. Answering another question, he said that he believes that the agreements make it clear that elected representatives of the Palestinians must take part in the negotiations concerning the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Defense Minister Comments

LD251755Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Defense Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah has met with the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton. Shaykh Salim as-Sabah made a statement in which he said that during Atherton's visit to Kuwait discussions were held on developments of the Middle East issue in light of the Camp David summit conference results. Atherton has explained the U.S. point of view with regard to the accords reached at the Camp David conference.

Shaykh Salim as-Sabah said that the Kuwaiti side told the U.S. officials of Kuwait's clear position on the matter as contained in the statement issued by the cabinet on 20 September. The Kuwait side said that the accords do not realize the desired objective which is the establishment of a lasting just peace in the Middle East because they do not contain any just solution for the Palestinian issue guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, these accords do not provide for any recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and do not provide for any commitment by Israel to withdraw completely from occupied Arab territory, particularly Jerusalem.

OMAN

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID RESULTS

NC252026Y Muscat OMANI NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 25 September--An Omani Foreign Ministry official spokesman tonight commented on the Camp David meeting. He said Oman does not consider the summit conference results completely negative and that "specific aspects" of the agreement that has been reached represent "tangible progress."

The spokesman said it is natural that there should be different points of view in assessment of the Camp David results. But, he added, this should not lead to further widening of the differences among the Arab states, particularly those states directly concerned in the problem. He said that there is no alternative to Arab solidarity. The spokesman said that his government supports the view that every Arab country has the right to take the position it believes in and that every Arab country should explain its position and the reasons behind it to the other Arab states in a manner that will be conducive to resolving the differences and to adherence to Arab solidarity, because solidarity is the framework for reaching a just solution.

The spokesman praised the efforts exerted by President Carter toward the convening of the Camp David meeting. He said that President Carter's efforts deserve everyone's appreciation. The spokesman pointed out that the peace initiative which President as-Sadat embarked on last November was the basis for the achievement of the progress which made the convening of the Camp David summit possible.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER

LD251138Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if, 25 Sep 78--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy and crown prince, received His Excellency Qais Zawai, Omani foreign minister, at 1130 in his office at the royal palace of At-Ta'if.

Qais Zawawi told SNA that his visit to the kingdom is in the context of coordination and consultation between the two sister countries for the benefit and interest of the two fraternal peoples of Oman and Saudi Arabia and those of the gulf area and the Arab nation in general. His excellency arrived at At-Ta'if at 1030; he was welcomed by a delegate of the Royal Protocol Department.

UAE

PRESIDENT VISITS SAUDI KING KHALID IN GENEVA

JN2516Z5Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Geneva, 25 September--UAE President His Excellency Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has visited his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia at his residence in Geneva to be reassured about the health of his majesty.

YEMEN--PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER ON STEADFASTNESS MEETING

LD221710Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Sep 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The third conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front ends in Damascus tonight. The PDRY is participating with a delegation led by President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

"Brother Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the Politburo, member of the Presidential Council and foreign minister, has stated that the conference will produce positive and important results that will strengthen the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in its fight to oppose the reactionary imperialist and Zionist designs against our Arab peoples, headed by our Palestinian Arab people.

"In a statement he made last night to the information mission accompanying Democratic Yemen's delegation, he declared that the conference will approve the Steadfastness Front Charter, in its theoretical and practical considerations and in all its actions [sentence as heard]. He said that the conference had considered the strategy of the relationship between the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, since they constitute one front that stands steadfastly against all the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies and designs. Concluding his statement, brother Muhammad Salih Muti' stressed that the third conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will come out with important and practical resolutions to confront the results of the treasonable Camp David meeting."

ARAB MINISTERS' SUPPORT FOR PDRY REPORTED

LD232050Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO Executive Committee, in the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus this afternoon. They discussed relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. In another development the information ministers of Libya and Syria, who are attending the conference of the Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, have made statements in support of the PDRY.

"The socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah minister of information made a statement warning against any aggression against Democratic Yemen. He made the statement today to the information team accompanying the Yemeni delegation attending the third conference of the Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. The minister of information of the Syrian Arab Republic, brother Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, also made a statement to the information team, in which he affirmed that any aggression against any one of the countries belonging to the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation will be regarded as aggression against all the steadfastness states."

14 OCTOBER ATTACKS 'AGENTS' IN NORTH YEMEN

LD252258Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD/EA

[Text] The 14 OCTOBER newspaper has said that our Yemeni people who have destroyed the regime of darkness, tyranny, and domination under the autocratic priestly rule of the imams made the revolution of 26 September the start of a new life for the new Yemeni society, free from all forms of oppression, humiliation and enslavement.

The paper went on to say in today's editorial: But the historical enemies opposed to the progress of the Yemenis and desirous of dominating their territory and resources have opposed the revolution from the very first day. Their conspiracies have assumed various forms, such as dealings with warmongers and others who lack any national consicence. The worst has been their encouragement of invading reactionary forces to occupy revolutionary posts, this containing the revolution from within, and stripping the noble program of the 26 September Revolution of any positive and progressive content.

The agents of the palace--former enemies of the revolution--after occupying the pulpits of the 26 September Revolution, have now resorted to vaunting their loyalty to the homeland and people, and claiming that they have brought prosperity to all parts of Yemen and bestowed on the people the blessings of the modern age, when in fact our people in the northern part of Yemen have grown more anxious about their life and future because of the structure of the country's economy, which is dominated by a handful of brokers and agents.

The paper stressed that our Yemeni people who sparked off the 26 September Revolution and with their blood and sacrifice formulated the great objectives of the revolution would not be duped by the tricks of the agents of reaction and the new invaders, nor would they permit the enemies to destory their revolution by inciting the one Yemeni people to civil war. The Yemeni people would remain as lofty as a high mountain in defense of the revolutions of 26 September in North Yemen and 14 October in South Yemen until victory was achieved and the invading enemies and their agents in the country cefeated.

BRIEFS

LOAN TO PAKISTANI COMPANY--Jidda 25 Sep SNA--The Islamic Development Bank today signed an agreement with the Pakistani (?refining) company, providing for the Bank to loan the Pakistani company $15 million to finance its imports of crude oil from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. [Excerpt] [Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD]

AL-AHRAM: EGYPT AWAITS CARTER LETTER ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

NC252232Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2218 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 September--AL-AHRAM says in Tuesday's edition that Egypt is awaiting an urgent letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter containing a definition of the Israeli Government's position on the Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Egypt is also awaiting the reply of President Carter's government to the Israeli position.

President Anwar as-Sadat has exchanged letters with President Carter, who in turn exchanged letters with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the question of Jerusalem and the fate of the Israeli settlements in Sinai and Egyptian territories.

AS-SADAT TO SPEAK AFTER KNESSET SETTLEMENTS DEBATE CONCLUDES

NC251904Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will deliver his important speech on the anniversary of the death of late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir as soon as the Israeli Knesset's position regarding the settlements in Sinai becomes clear. The People's Assembly will convene an emergency session to listen to the president's speech. Members of the ASU Central Committee will also be invited to attend the session.

In his speech the president will deal with the general framework of the comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and the main lines of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The president's speech will also include the basis of the two Camp David documents on the international and Arab levels and the program for national action during the coming phase.

The date of the People's Assembly emergency session will depend on the Knesset debate on the question of settlements.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO FRENCH TELEVISION

NC231700Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 23 September--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has given an interview to the French television channel one on the results of the Camp David meetings.

Asked what role he expects France to play in the next phase, and especially about his remark at his press conference that the French Government's statement on the Camp David results was "an excellent and understanding statement," the president said: Before proceeding to Camp David, I held a very important meeting lasting over 3 hours with President Giscard d'Estaing. We discussed all aspects of the Middle East problem and all the possible results of the Camp David meetings. We also discussed the Lebanese problem. When I went to the United States I discussed with Carter all the details of my talks with Giscard d'Estaing. We were all agreed regarding the problems we discussed. Our views were also in agreement on the Lebanese problem.

The president added: Let me tell you frankly that the statement issued by Giscard d'Estaing on Camp David directly touched the truth. However, my Arab colleagues have unfortunately failed to see the point of the truth as Giscard d'Estaing did. This point is that at Camp David we managed to stamp out a disturbed and explosive phase. We defused a bomb that was about to explode and we ruled out the threat of war.

Continuing, the president said: A hard and important phase of negotiations still lies ahead. It will be a difficult phase but we will continue the work in a completely new atmosphere detached from the threat of war. Giscard d'Estaing understood all this. On this occasion I am happy to express to him and the French people who have upheld my initiative my deep gratitude for fully understanding us.

The president also said: Let us unite our efforts in the coming difficult phase, that is, the phase of the negotiations, particularly since we have succeeded in eliminating all the possibilities of explosion. We hope we will succeed in our coming work.

Asked whether he was optimistic when he went to Camp David and whether he is still optimistic, President as-Sadat said: Let me tell you that I am optimistic by nature and it is with this spirit that I went to Camp David. As I have told you, I discussed with President Giscard d'Estaing all the alternatives and possibilities. I was not sure of success. I am still optimistic and I can face any situation.

Reaffirming his point, the president said: Yes, I was optimistic before Camp David. Today, after Camp David, I am more optimistic. In fact I am more optimistic than ever.

Question: Begin is interpreting the Camp David resolutions one way and your excellency is interpreting them another way. Where is the truth?

Answer: It is a fact that we did not agree on all questions at Camp David but at the same time we did agree on a number of important points. We will sit down together within 3 months to settle all questions which we have not managed to solve. We will sit down in an atmosphere of peace now that we have completely excluded the old atmosphere which prevailed before Camp David, an atmosphere which was characterized by lack of confidence.

Question: What is your opinion, Mr President, of the thesis that Egypt has become completely isolated in the Arab world and that with the Camp David resolutions you will be seeking a separate solution?

Answer: Let me tell you that following the first disengagement agreement, the second disengagement agreement and my initiative, they said the same thing they are saying now--that I have become isolated in the Arab world. This is not true at all. The rejection camp or the rejection front has always rejected everything--before, during and after the October War. None of the rejection states has taken part in solving the real issue. For example, we met at the Rabat summit conference and the Arab leaders agreed to give aid to the confrontation states--Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO. However, none of the rejection states participated in giving this aid and we did not expect them to participate.

I regret to say that they have not read the Camp David resolutions as President Giscard d'Estaing has read and understood them. Had they read and analyzed these resolutions, they would not have adopted this hasty stand, which is completely wrong and groundless. They must reread the agreement.

President as-Sadat added: After I had delivered my statement at the Knesset, they opposed it. They then reread it and apologized to me. The president emphasized that what is being said about Egypt being isolated by the Arabs is imaginary and untrue.

Asked about the implementation of the agreement, especially since Syria and Jordan refuse to participate in it, the president said: Everyone has to decide for himself. However, I would like to say that this agreement has been concluded to be implemented.

I have not presented a separate agreement. The first document contains a comprehensive settlement and a call to all concerned, namely Syria and Jordan, to come and participate with us in the peace process so that we may, in 3 months, reach a peace agreement with Israel and discuss security matters with it. All this does not constitute a separate agreement.

The president said: It would have been easy for me and I would not have had to go to Camp David to attain a separate agreement. I was faced with every difficulty and I prepared myself for everything. I also prepared myself to sit down with Israel. If the other parties agree to this, they will obtain a peace agreement in 3 months and regain their territories. This confirms that I have not presented a separate agreement. The talks on Gaza and the West Bank are parallel with the talks regarding Sinai. If Syria joins the talks, negotiations on the Golan will be parallel with the negotiations on Gaza and the West Bank.

The president reaffirmed: I did not negotiate on benlaf of Syria. He said: By these agreements I have removed the sufferings of our Arab women and children and brothers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Replying to a question on King Husayn's position, President as-Sadat said: The Camp David agreements have been signed and we will not turn back again. If King Husayn does not participate, that will be his responsibility before history and his people. I have not yet officially received King Husayn's view. I have heard that he met with Yasir 'Arafat and Al-Qadhdhafi at a Jordanian airport. King Husayn has to decide for himself. I will not impose anything on anybody. I have carried out the so-called hard work--the difficult task--and if they do not come and participate, this is their problem, not mine.

AT-TUHAMI LEAVES FOR GENEVA TO MEET KING KHALID

NC2608015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 26 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 September--Deputy Prime Minister for Presidential Affairs Hasan at-Tuhami left Cairo for Geneva this morning to meet with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and brief him on the Camp David agreements. At-Tuhami's visit to Geneva was postponed twice this week because King Khalid had not yet arrived in Geneva.

GHALI BRIEFS AFRICAN ENVOYS ON CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

NC2522255Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 September--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali asserted today that in the two Camp David agreements Egypt adhered to the letter and spirit of the OAU resolutions and to the African contention that no peace can be established in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's rights are recognized. During a meeting with the African ambassadors to Egypt today, Dr Ghali said Egypt's efforts to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East, in the light of the Camp David results which represent a general framework for peace, are based on the OAU principles, particularly the preamble and Article 3 of the OAU Charter regarding peaceful settlement of disputes. He added: The two Camp David agreements are in line with all the OAU and Arab League resolutions, all of which are based on UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Dr Ghali said: We are at the beginning of a long road and a transitional period. He said there will be problems and difficulties which we need the support of the African community to overcome. He emphasized the importance Egypt attaches to Arab-African solidarity.

He said that Egypt will send messages to the heads of the African states on the dimensions of the two agreements and a letter to the OAU secretary general containing the texts of the agreements so that he may communicate them to the OAU member states with a note explaining the agreements.

Dr Ghali also affirmed that the Camp David agreement is a comprehensive one, not a partial or separate solution. Evidence of this is what the agreement says about the West Bank and Gaza.

He also emphasized that Egypt will continue to assume its responsibility regarding the Middle East issue within the framework of a comprehensive solution and the Palestinian issue. With regard to Jerusalem, he noted that President as-Sadat did not speak in the name of Egypt alone but also in the name of Moslems throughout the world. He said that what applies to the West Bank will also apply to Arab Jerusalem, which is part of the West Bank.

During the meeting, which was attended by 30 ambassadors and charges d'affaires, the representatives of the African states asked several questions about the nature of the Camp David agreement, about the situation if Jordan refuses to participate in the next steps, and about the UN role in the agreement.

About the situation if Jordan refuses to participate, Dr Ghali referred to President as-Sadat's statement that Egypt is prepared to replace Jordan if it refuses to participate but that Egypt hopes Jordan will participate.

The minister said: We will exert every effort to have Jordan participate in the Middle East peace process. He added that Egypt's participation in the question of the West Bank and Gaza Strip stems from Egypt's efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem on the basis of its special responsibility regarding this problem. He said: After the Israeli Knesset's approval on withdrawal from the settlements in Sinai, the negotiations between Egypt and Israel will begin. Egypt will try to establish some kind of compatibility between withdrawal from Sinai and what will take place in the other Arab areas. He added: For example, if an agreement is reached between Egypt and Israel, the military rule in the West Bank will end at the same time.

The Liberian ambassador to Egypt, in his capacity as leader of the African envoys, expressed the gratitude of the envoys to President as-Sadat for his peace efforts. He also expressed their hopes for the success of the Egyptian efforts and the achievement of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. He said that the African ambassadors will immediately inform their governments of the information they have received at the meeting.

It has been learned that there was unanimous agreement by the African ambassadors on the understanding of the dimensions of the agreement. The ambassadors applauded twice as the minister of state for foreign affairs was explaining the dimensions of the agreements.

Dr Butrus Ghali's meeting with the African ambassadors falls within the framework of the diplomatic moves by the Foreign Ministry to explain the dimensions of the Camp David agreement.

Also within the framework of these diplomatic moves, Dr Butrus Ghali will meet with the Arab ambassadors at 1000 tomorrow. He will meet with the ambassadors of the West European states at noon tomorrow and with the Asian ambassadors at 1800. Dr Butrus Ghali will meet with the Latin American and East European ambassadors Wednesday.

AL-AHRAM CHIEF EDITOR ON CAMP DAVID AGREEMENT

LD2517547 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Sep 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Chief Editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal article: "Who Triumphed in the Camp David Talks?"]

[Text] Before the Camp David meetings began and during the exhausting talks that took place there, the consensus was that, whatever the outcome of the meetings--whether success or failure--the only party to emerge triumphant would be President Anwar as-Sadat.

Why this consensus and what was the basis for such an analysis?

With regard to President Jimmy Carter, it is no secret that he is facing certain internal problems. There have been indications that his popularity is in constant decline and the failure of the talks would mean putting all the blame on him on the grounds that he did not make preparations for the talks on a sound basis.

With regard to Begin, the non-Jewish U.S. public does not sympathize with him, particularly since his previous visit to the United States, which had an adverse impact on the Americans, to such an extent that before going to the United States for the Camp David talks, Begin sought the advice of an expert to advise him what to do to change his image in the minds of the Americans. With regard to Jewish public opinion in the United States, it became divided between support for Begin and strong criticism of his policy, and open accusations that he was becoming an obstacle to peace and to the success of Camp David.

In contrast to Begin, President as-Sadat enjoys the respect and appreciation of the American people and their total conviction that he is a man of peace. Had the conference failed, the blame would not have fallen on him but on Begin's intransigence and rejection of the opportunity given him to achieve peace for Israel and all the countries of the area.

At the same time the Camp David conference was being held, the U.S. Zionist organization was holding its annual conference in Washington. Harry Hurwitz, Begin's new adviser for foreign media, defined Israel's policy at this conference in the following five points:

1. Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 borders;
2. Israel will not accept minor alterations of the borders;
3. The Israeli army will remain in Gaza and on the border with Jordan;
4. The Israeli Defense Forces will remain in the West Bank forever;
5. Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel.

At the end of the Camp David conference and the declaration of the text of the agreement which incorporated the two documents issued by the conference, the question that came to mind was: Who has emerged triumphant from the conference? Who has achieved all he wanted from the conference?

I would answer this question on the basis of the facts contained in the two documents issued by the conference and on what Begin's adviser said:

First, with regard to nonwithdrawal to the 1967 borders, Begin signed a document providing for the withdrawal of Israel from all Sinai to the Egyptian international borders;

Second, with regard to minor alterations of the borders, Begin signed two documents containing points that will definitely lead to alterations in the borders;

Third, the Israeli army will withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank to positions which will be determined through negotiations to be held by various parties, including the Palestinians, and the future of these positions will be determined after the 5-year transitional period;

Fourth, with regard to Jerusalem, the decision on its future has been left to the future negotiations in which the Palestinians and Jordanians will take part.

I would go even further than that and say that within the next few months the Camp David agreement will abolish the Israeli military administration which has been imposed on Gaza and the West Bank since the June 1967 war, to be replaced by a full autonomous rule for the Palestinians.

The fall of the Israeli military administration means that thousands of Palestinians will be freed from jail and will resume their normal life, free of Israeli coercion and torture.

The establishment of a Palestinian authority means that the Palestinians will administer their own affairs according to their own will.

I have heard another question which asks: What is the difference between Begin's self-rule plan and the Camp David agreement?

I would immediately answer that there is more than one basic and essential difference:

First, the Begin plan made no mention whatsoever of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza, the withdrawal for which the Camp David agreement has provided;

Second, the Begin plan provided for the police force to remain Israeli, whereas the Camp David agreement provides for the Arabs to form the police force and to be responsible for security, which is an extremely important point;

Third, the Begin plan provided for future developments to be left open for consideration, but did not specify what kind of consideration, thus leaving the matter hanging in the air, whereas the Camp David agreement provides an outline for the future and makes it subject to negotiations in which the Palestinians will take part;

Fourth, Begin's plan was an individual plan which means that its only author was Begin, whereas the Camp David agreement belongs to three parties--the Arabs, the United States and Israel; and,

Fifth, the Begin plan did not deal with the question of settlements, whereas the Camp David agreement provides for removing the settlements in Sinai and halting the construction of new settlements on the West Bank.

If we take into consideration Zionist plans, which are based on the theory of settlements, we realize the major gain the Camp David agreement has achieved in this regard. I do not mean that the agreement has smashed Zionist plans, for these plans still exist and are entrenched in the minds of the Israeli extremists, but, at least the agreement has deprived these plans of their colonialist greed.

The well-known U.S. commentator Joseph Kraft, one of the best known supporters of Israel, wrote after the signing of the Camp David agreement: President as-Sadat has obtained an important concession from Mr Begin concerning the future of the West Bank, which the Israeli prime minister insists on calling Judaea and Samaria. He has gained an important concession with regard to the future of Gaza as well. By this I mean the disengagement of Israeli military occupation of the two areas within a few months. The agreement provides for the withdrawal of Israeli forces into Israel while leaving others in specific areas. Also, the Palestinians will have self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza, which will have freedom of action, and at the end of 5 years the Palestinians will take part in determining their full sovereignty on the West Bank and Gaza.

Kraft also says that many nations have obtained their independence through a much smaller basis than that obtained by the Palestinians in the Camp David agreement. If the Palestinians are clever they must benefit from the principles the Camp David agreement achieved for them. They must form their local government with all its executive powers and maintain close relations with the Egyptians and Jordanians. They must also strengthen their relations with the Palestinian refugees, particularly with the PLO members. When the day comes--that is, after 5 years--they will hold all the cards.

Continuing, Kraft says: The Palestinians must also politically control the territory they will rule and they will then receive unprecedented support from the United States, the Soviet Union and the Arab countries. Meanwhile, Israel will find itself isolated, hanging to a piece of paper in enclaves held by its forces. All this means that the establishment of a Palestinian state is inevitable.

Kraft concludes: The present possibility is that the Arabs will not perceive these expectations as they are strongly divided. The PLO has attacked the agreement while it is questionable whether King Husayn will join the agreement. But the man who has achieved a far-reaching victory in the Middle East is Anwar as-Sadat.

While I agree with everything the U.S. commentator said, I would add that Arab opportunism and the exploitation of the Palestinian problem is a phenomenon that unfortunately still exists in certain Arab countries which today are staging the same comic play they staged following the first disengagement agreement, the second disengagement agreement and the president's visit to Jerusalem.

After every bold and confident step As-Sadat takes to achieve Arab interests, gain new grounds and win international support, these countries do not hesitate to resort to demagogic campaigns that reflect only impotence, failure and lack of resourcefulness.

Otherwise, let us ask: What have they done for the Palestine problem since Egypt signed the first disengagement agreement? Nothing.

What have they done since the second disengagement agreement? Nothing.

What have they done since the president's visit to Jerusalem? Nothing.

What will they do after the Camp David agreement? Nothing.

Nevertheless, President Anwar as-Sadat, with the support of all sincere Arabs, will continue to achieve for the Arabs--both the sincere ones and the ones who indulge in outbidding--the Arab rights toward which they failed to progress a single step in 30 years.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON 'INTENTIONAL HOSTILITY' OF REJECTION FRONT

NC260748Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Sep 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes about the rejection front, led by Hafiz al-Asad, who has affirmed to the U.S. secretary of state his denunciation of the Egyptian peace moves and his readiness to hold consultations with the United States. The paper points out that this is indicative of the hostile stand which Al-Asad has taken against Egypt and the desperate attempt of Al-Asad and those behind him to isolate Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR says: Responsible sources have said that Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to the U.S. secretary of state his denunciation of the Egyptian peace moves, but that he agreed at the same time to maintain close consultations with the Americans. This means that Al-Asad does not approve of the peace moves because they are Egyptian. Yet he agrees to maintain close consultations with the Americans. These, of course, are consultations for peace. But he does not approve or accept consultations for peace which Egypt has held with the Americans.

The paper explains that this is the truth of Al-Asad's position and the position of the group linked to him by the ties of rejection--a position of hostility to Egypt and to everything that Egypt achieves, even if it is a full, comprehensive peace. The hostility is intentional. Because of this hostility, Al-Asad and his group rejected the Camp David agreements even before they were announced publicly and before the group had even read their provisions and articles. Because of this hostility, they rejected the peace initiative before it took place and before they understood its substance. They rejected the Camp David conference before it was held and before its discussions and works were announced. This hostility is not maintained for the sake of Arabism or for the sake of any Arab interest. It is, regrettably, a hostility maintained for the sake of cheap subservience to and agency for Moscow, in which Hafiz al-Asad and 'Ali Nasir of the communist PDRY meet.

The paper denounces the rejection front's decision to break off diplomatic and economic relations with Egypt. The paper says: The latest manifestation of hostility to Egypt by the rejection states was their decision at their meeting in Syria to break off their diplomatic and economic relations with Egypt. They assume that in doing so, they will isolate the Egyptian people from the Arab peoples. They forget that in doing so, they will only isolate themselves. But we ask: Why do those rejectionists want to isolate the Egyptian people from the Arab peoples? If the answer is because they reject the Camp David agreements, it is known that these agreements are open to them. If they have an opinion, let them express it and let them offer what they have, if they can achieve more.

The truth is that the rejection states have no opinion and nothing to offer. The hostility to Egypt is imposed on them by virtue of their subservience and agency. This is what Moscow wants them to do. This is the case of those rejectionists, subservients and agents.

Concluding its commentary, AL-AKHBAR says: If this group had brains and opinions, even in the interest of its peoples, it would not have made this decision, because it harms its peoples before it harms Egypt, and because it is damaging to its peoples before it is damaging to the Egyptian people. By virtue of its historic responsibility, Egypt has always been a giver, not a taker, and has always borne the burdens and calamities for the sake of its Arab sister states and does not make them bear anything for its sake. After all, Egypt knows for certain that these rejectionists represent only themselves. Deep in their hearts, their peoples disavow and reject them and maintain loyalty to Egypt.

Egypt will never be isolated from the Arab peoples and will never be isolated from the world. Egypt is a power that has its distinction, position and capabilities. As far as the Arabs and the world are concerned, it is thekey to war and peace. The rejectionist group, the Al-Asad and 'Ali Nasir group will not isolate Egypt. They have, in fact, isolated themselves.

AL-AHRAM ATTACKS SOVIET POSITION ON CAMP DAVID

NC230700Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 22 Sep 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 September--The newspaper AL-AHRAM comments on the Soviet opposition to the two peace agreements which were signed at Camp David. In its comment under the title "The Receding Influence," the paper says: It seems that the Soviet Union entertains the illusion that the Arab peoples can now be deceived by slogans or can entertain illusions about the Soviet Union's real objectives in the Middle East--even after the October 1973 war and up to the incidents in the Horn of Africa which took place around the beginning of this year.

The paper adds: The attack launched by the Soviet Union through its leader, Leonid Brezhnev, against the two agreements is perfectly timed to coincide with the meeting of the rejection front leaders, the Soviet Union's allies in "the unholy alliance." Brezhnev's attack does not deviate from that of the conferees in Damascus, but he unwittingly exposes their objectives through his statements, the goals of which are immediately discerned by those who are well informed of the realities prevailing throughout the Arab world.

The paper explains that the first motive for this attack is the fact that the United States has assumed the major role in the achievement of the "framework for peace," which specifies the form of negotiation between all the [Arab] parties concerned with the crisis and Israel.

The paper notes that Brezhnev deliberately forgets important realities when he attacks Egypt and the Camp David agreement. It seems that Brezhnev imagines that people have a short memory and that they have forgotten that Brezhnev himself consistently advised the Arabs that the United States held the key to the situation because of the U.S. special relationship with Israel. Furthermore, and even in cooperation with the United States itself, Brezhnev and the United States could only lay down incomplete bases for the Middle East negotiations. This fact was epitomized in the joint statement issued on 1 October 1977 by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. This statement noted that there were three conditions for a settlement: Israel's withdrawal "from occupied Arab territories," insuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and ending the state of war and establishing normal relations.

In concluding its comment, AL-AHRAM says: Brezhnev is now attacking the results of the conference. These results stipulate that the Israeli withdrawalencompass all fronts and that the Palestinian people's legitimate rights will ultimately enable them to establish their national entity. Therefore, what about the detailed formula included in "the framework for peace?" If this framework is translated into agreements which will be implemented, Moscow will lose all hope for winning people over to its side. It will also lose the publicity which would assure it of maintaining an influence which has been waning for many years in this area.

AS-SADAT SIGNS DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NC252056Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 September--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today signed the document on the establishment of the National Democratic Party [NDP]. The signing was attended by NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd.

'Ubayd is scheduled to submit the document on the establishment of the NDP to the parties committee at the Arab Socialist Union [ASU] on Wednesday.

The political parties committee of the ASU Central Committee, which is headed by ASU Central Committee Secretary General Dr Mustafa Khalil, will announce its decision on the establishment of the NDP at the beginning of next week after studying the party program, statutes and its founding documents and ascertaining that these documents conform with the parties laws.

President as-Sadat will preside over the meeting of the NDP general conference at the end of next week.

Statement to Press

NC252135Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 September--President Anwar as-Sadat made a statement to the correspondents of international news agencies and television networks after his excellency signed the document establishing the National Democratic Party. In his statement President as-Sadat said: It is a happy occasion that we begin the process of establishing a full democracy.

The president said: The states surrounding us and even beyond--some of the states in Asia and Africa--are seeing in our experiment an example of true democracy.

His excellency said: I do not know whether it has been by chance that at the same time we have been able to solve the Middle East problem--which had continued for 30 years and was characterized by war, hatred and bitterness--that all this should turn into friendship and good neighborliness.

President as-Sadat said: It is a happy occasion that we begin the democratic system in our country today after the Israeli Cabinet yesterday approved the agreements we reached at Camp David.

The president added that after his initiative of visiting Jerusalem--the initiative which was supported by the whole world--he said that he will never abandon the initiative and that he is happy that he has fulfilled his pledge.

The president said: Let us hope for a new world where a new system of peace, amity and prosperity prevails.

President as-Sadat said that Vice President Husni Mubarak, who is currently performing the duties of the presidency because the president is on vacation, will today initiate direct contacts between Egypt and Israel to prepare for the future negotiations on the Camp David agreement.

The president was asked about the date for the start of the peace negotiations. His excellency said that the negotiations will start as soon as the Israeli Knesset makes a decision.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON FORMATION OF NEW CABINET

LD250958Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Sep 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that procedures for the formation of a new government will begin immediately after the National Democratic Party completes its organization, when the party general congress will be held and the party higher council will be formed. The new government will reflect and implement party policies.

The AL-AHRAM correspondent has also learned that President as-Sadat believes that in the coming stage the party should play a basic and leading role as the party of absolute majority and a party of action. Consequently, the cabinet will be a party committee and its executive body.

According to the broad lines agreed upon, the party is supposed to complete its formation when the general congress meets during the first week of October. The congress session will last 4 days, during which the party program will be discussed and endorsed. This will be followed by elections for the party's higher council.

The AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that President as-Sadat believes that the majority of the new cabinet should consist of new faces, mainly young people of the "October generation." President as-Sadat has cited as an example President Carter's aides and the U.S. Government secretaries who belong to the younger generation.

During the discussion of this trend some apprehensions were expressed regarding the lack of experience among such younger elements. In order to overcome this fear, it has been suggested--a suggestion likely to be adopted--that a number of experienced people be appointed as deputy prime ministers. This would make it possible to divide work within the government into sectors and also to mix vitality with experience.

The AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the general trend is for the ministers to be members of the party specialized committees but not assume leading posts in them. The committees will follow up the work and activities of every minister, each in his own field.

According to an official source, the new government is expected to be formed during the first 10 days of October, after which a new and stable phase of executive action will begin, especially since the new government will be a means of implementing the party's long-term program, and therefore the executive policies in any ministry will not change with a change of individuals.

BEIRUT CITES MENA ON DISSOLUTION OF MILITARY UNITS

NC232324Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Sep 78 NC

[Text] The official Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY has reported that the Egyptian military authorities will disband some of their units at the beginning of next year. The agency added that the Egyptian authorities will introduce courses, free of charge, for those discharged to train them in the practical life they will be leading.

INA: EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARREST OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS

JN241230Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 24 September--As-Sadat's intelligence services have confiscated pictures of late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and have seized pamphlets prepared by the Progressive National Unionist Party for the anniversary of the late president's death on 28 September.

The intelligence services have also apprehended a large number of party members during the past 2 days. Among those arrested are 'Abd al-Hamid ash-Shaykh, party liaison in the As-Sayyidah Zaynab quarter in Cairo; the official in charge of the committee for the defense of liberties; and Shawqi al-Kurdi and Fakhri Labib.

MENA: EGYPT, FRANCE, UNITED STATES TO SUBMIT PLAN ON LEBANON

NC221940Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 22 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Rabat, 22 September--The MENA correspondent in Rabat has learned that Presidents Anwar as-Sadat, Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France and Jimmy Carter of the United States will submit a joint plan for the settlement of the Lebanese problem.

The correspondent has learned that President as-Sadat discussed the question of Lebanon in detail with President Giscard d'Estaing during his visit to France on the way to the Camp David conference. President as-Sadat also discussed the question of Lebanon with President Carter during the Camp David meetings, and also briefed him on his talks with President Giscard d'Estaing in this connection.

This joint plan is expected to be announced in the near future.

FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

JN251845Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text of speech by Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi at 33d session of UN General Assembly in New York]

[Excerpts] New York, 25 September--Mr President, Iraq has adhered to a firm policy regarding the Palestinian issue, based on the principles of international law and the UN Charter. The Zionist entity was established on Palestinian soil through the conspiring of an alliance of forces of world Zionism and Western colonialism to realize the Zionist objective of gathering world Jewry and establishing their purely Jewish state. Despite the existing contradiction between this measure and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people--the owners of the Palestinian land--the forces of Western colonialism ignored the Arab presence in Palestine and abetted the colonialist-Zionist conspiracy in order to consolidate the colonialist presence in the Arab land, protect their economic interests and loot the wealth of the Arab nation.

Since 1973 we have heard about diplomatic efforts being exerted by U.S. and other circles to bring about a so-called "peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis." Today and after the passing of 5 years, we should pause for a moment of reflection and criticism.

First and foremost I would like to affirm that the Arab nation, which has suffered long through centuries of social and economic backwardness, is in dire need of genuine peace in order to have the opportunity to build and progress. Before the Zionist aggression was imposed on us, the various communities and minorities of our people lived in peace and security. Any settlement which does not address itself to the core of the problem, namely, the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and enjoy their firm and inalienable rights--including their right to self-determination on their national soil--is an unrealistic attempt and its chances for success are scant.

Political developments in the field of the so-called efforts for a comprehensive settlement reflect a negative line that continuously fails to tackle the core of the problem. UN Security Council Resolution No 242 has been taken as the basis for a settlement. However, if we scrutinize this resolution, we realize that it does not speak about the Palestinian people and their inalienable national rights. Although certain quarters hailed what they described as a transformation in Washington regarding recognition of the Palestinian element as one of the primary elements in the Middle East issue, we see that the U.S. understanding of the Palestinian role does not mean in practice enabling this people to exercise their right to self-determination.

As far as the U.S. administration is concerned, the fate of the occupied Palestinian territories--in case of an Israeli withdrawal--is no longer a Palestinian or even an Arab affair. It has become subject to Israeli approval. Furthermore, as far as Washington is concerned, an Israeli withdrawal no longer means a total withdrawal, in accordance with the principle of the impermissibility of the seizure of land by force. In harmony with the Israeli position, the U.S. position went so far as to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to choose their representatives. Furthermore, it stretched the exercise of the remaining Palestinian rights over a period of 5 years. The Zionist occupation will be allowed to continue during this period and even after it.

Any settlement based on the aforementioned bases is a mere invitation to liquidate the Palestinian presence. The results of the Camp David conference consolidated this trend. They went even further when they called for a separate settlement between the racist regime in Tel Aviv and As-Sadat's regime.

On the Palestinian level, the conference disregarded the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, which have been confirmed by the United Nations. The conference resolutions ignored the Palestinian people's unity and sovereignty over their land. They divided the Palestinian people into inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza on the one hand and refugees on the other. The inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza are given self-rule only under elements alien to the Palestinian people. The Zionist entity retains permanent occupation forces and everything which takes place in the West Bank and Gaza is subject to the Zionist government's approval.

According to the Camp David agreements, the rest of the Palestinian people--about 2 million--are mere refugees. As-Sadat and Begin were given the choice of methods for liquidating them instead of approving their right to return to their homeland. Finally, the conference ignored the fate of Arab Jerusalem and the occupied Golan Heights.

The resolutions of the Camp David conference constitute the basis for a humiliating treaty of capitulation which no nation can accept. Iraq, as part of the Arab nation, categorically rejects these resolutions.

In previous speeches before this assembly, we have affirmed a number of principles and measures which we continue to consider indispensable and essential foundations for tackling the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Middle East.

1. The Zionist entity occupies territories of three Arab states, contrary to all international law and practice and UN resolutions, particularly the principle of the inadmissibility of the seizure of land by force or invasion. Thus the United Nations and its members shoulder the responsibility of bringing about a total, unconditional and immediate withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, allowing the occupier no political gains. Anything else would be tantamount to rewarding an aggressor for his aggression.

2. The United Nations is the natural and sound framework for discussing the Palestinian problem in the presence of the Palestinian people's representatives, in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution No 3236. Attempting to bypass the international organization and the attempt by certain quarters to act singly in settling the problem through conferences do not help the achievement of a just and durable solution.

3. Any material support, particularly in the military field, extended to the racist regime in Tel Aviv aggravates the tension and extends the duration of the conflict in the Arab area, constituting a threat to world peace and security. (?The proliferation of nuclear arms in the Middle East has become a certainty.) Indications and various information confirm that Tel Aviv intends to possess and use this weapon. Expeditious and serious measures should be taken to put an end to the increasing military and nuclear cooperation between Tel Aviv and Pretoria. The draft resolution entitled "Military and Nuclear Cooperation With Israel," which was submitted during the special session on disarmament can serve as a basis for a resolution which should be adopted by the General Assembly at its current session.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN261008Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Sep 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for talks with His Majesty Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on the situation in the Arab area and the latest developments and means to build the Arab stand.

His Majesty King Husayn and senior state officials received President Hafiz al-Asad on his arrival at Amman airport. His excellency was accorded an official welcome. The band played the Syrian and Jordanian anthems. The two leaders then reviewed the guard of honor.

KING HUSAYN OUTLINES POLICY TO ARMY OFFICERS

JN251645Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the armed forces, met at the Husayn Sports City this afternoon with his brother officers in the armed forces, public security and general intelligence. During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the situation in the area and the basic principles of the Jordanian stand on current events.

His majesty said: In this steadfast land, we continue to constitute the last protective shield of the Arab homeland. We remain loyal to our nation's mission and believe in our nation's destiny and objectives.

His majesty added: We have always supported a just and comprehensive solution based on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, primarily Arab Jerusalem, and granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

His majesty touched on current events in the Arab homeland. He gave a thorough and detailed analysis of these events and speculated on the future. His majesty affirmed to the military commanders that Jordan shoulders its pan-Arab responsibility, and is currently holding wide-scale Arab and international contacts to formulate a stand which will serve the cause and rights and which is in harmony with the pan-Ara trust and interests of the nation.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, his excellency the chief of the royal Hashemite court, the court minister, his excellency the commander in chief of the armed forces, and his highness the chief chamberlain.

DELEGATION REPORTEDLY TO VISIT USSR SOON

JN240824Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Sep 78 p 1 JN

[Text] AD-DUSTUR has learned that a delegation made up of a number of Jordanian personalities will leave for the Soviet Union soon on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government. The necessary preparations for the visit are being made.

It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow, Hani al-Khasawina'i, has conveyed a copy of the Jordanian statement on the outcome of the Camp David conference to the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

AMMAN SAYS CAMP DAVID TRIES TO FORCE ROLE ON JORDAN

JN222145Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Sep 78 JN

[Commentary by "the radio political editor": "Will We Reach the Stage of Submitting an Alternative"]

[Text] No matter how the outcome of Camp David summit and the agreements concluded between Egypt and Israel are described, and no matter what stands were adopted toward the outcome, it is time to face facts in our Arab world. It is the moment to face the fact that Egypt has chosen its way to peace. Egypt has chosen a unilateral course to tackle the Egyptian aspect of the basic issue. It is the moment to face the fact that for the steps Israel took toward Egypt, Israel is exacting its price from Palestinian rights.

We have to face the fact that verbal rejection was answered in Camp David diplomacy by drawing up and implementing roles on behalf of the parties concerned, apart from their stand and wishes. The United States has placed the train of solution on the track of settlement and launched it at very great speed, announcing that the other parties must follow as fast as they can or they will lose their roles, or that others will carry them out either on their behalf or in spite of them.

Thus for the first time in the history of Arab rejection, mere rejection means loss and perhaps the greatest loss because the train will not stop. For the first time in the history of Arab rejection something other than words and political statements are required. What is required is a stand of collective Arab action that will affect the train of solution and its stations as well as its course and speed. What is required is a stand that will put forth alternatives for what is rejected. What is required is not mere information campaigns that make political and press statements a coverup for impotence. It is necessary to face facts by collective action to guide the march.

A look at the document which is called the Framework for Comprehensive Peace reveals that Jordan's role in and contribution to the Camp David agreement is defined exactly and that Jordan is to implement these commitments and that failure to do so means sacrifice to the Israeli occupation. Everything was planned and prepared in this way to give this meaning. Instead of following the framework of the peace agreement, Jordan, after a preliminary study of the documents, hastened to state that Jordan's role cannot be defined on behalf of Jordan. Jordan stated that the principles that govern Jordan's ultimate decision, stand and role in a just and comprehensive settlement are reduction of all divided solutions, adherence to a just and comprehensive solution and emphasis on the Palestinian people's legitimate right to determine their own future by themselves and not have it decided by their adversary or by proxy. Jordan's principles emphasize the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force and complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, foremost of which is Jerusalem. This is the only approach to the hoped for political settlement based on implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and the UN resolutions of the Palestine question and the issue of occupied Arab Jerusalem.

Guided by these principles, which will govern its stand and role, Jordan realizes the dimensions of its responsibilities to serve the Palestine question and the Arab rights. In its Arab and international contacts, Jordan is trying to study and scrutinize the forthcoming stage and to benefit from Arab and international support.

Jordan realizes that what is required at this stage is not only to face the situation but also to tackle possible eventualities. Arab countries at this stage must not only describe the situation and its dangers but must also tackle the eventualities.

We are now facing two kinds of unilateral action, each of which implies dangers. First, there is the unilateral Egyptian action to solve the Egyptian aspect of the effects of the aggression. This action has long-term effects on the general Arab situation, on the center of Arab power and on the Arab nation's ability to remain steadfast and confront the aggression and to change the balance of force between the Arab nation and Zionism. Second, there is unilateral Israeli action to liquidate the basic issue within the framework of the second agreement, which is called the Framework of Comprehensive Peace. This Israeli action aims at dealing with the issue and implementing articles related to it in the absence of the parties concerned. The second agreement is to be implemented by one party, as Israel has stated since it signed these agreements.

Needless to say, the second agreement not only ignores the right of the Palestinians as people who demand sovereignty and self-determination, but also their human rights as refugees. The agreement tackles the Palestinian people only as an Arab community in an Israeli land who have administrative rights within the framework of Israeli sovereignty and domination.

How will the Arabs move to affect the U.S. international and Arab roles to prevent unilateral Israeli action? How can we prevent Israel from implementing its conditions for peace? How can the framework of peace be rebuilt according to the principles of Resolution 242 and the resolutions on occupied Jerusalem, primarily the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force and complete withdrawal?

This is what is required in the forthcoming stage. Those who are capable of taking action and influencing the course of events are required to take action to achieve this goal. They must face this fact.

What is possible in the current international and Middle Eastern situation? What is possible under the existing conditions of impotence? What is possible under the current conditions of Arab indifference to tackling fateful pan-Arab issues? What will happen if we continue with our rejection without supporting action? What could occur in the occupied territory so that the Palestinians would despair of an Arab role? What is possible is that Israel will use the agreement of the framework of peace as a legal means to consecrate its existence and occupation. What is possible is Israeli's implementation of the plan of local administration as outlined in the agreement of comprehensive peace.

What we want to stress is: Let the Arabs reject as they please and translate their feelings and stands as they wish by an information campaign. But they must also take firm action to submit practical alternatives at least once in their modern history. The train of solution has gone a long way and it will not stop. There are agreements in this train and some of their articles have already been implemented. Will we emerge from the stage of information campaigns to the stage of effective collective action? This is the required stand. Will we take action?

TRADE PROTOCOL RATIFIED WITH EGYPT

JN260955Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 25 September--The instruments of ratification of the trade protocol concluded between Jordan and Egypt in March were exchanged in Amman today.

On this occasion, Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani expressed the hope that trade and economic relations between the two fraternal countries will develop. He also lauded the efforts made by the officials of the Egyptian Foreign Trade Ministry and the employees of the Egyptian Embassy in Amman to strengthen trade relations between Jordan and Egypt.

Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif replied by praising the efforts being made in Jordan for cooperation and economic integration between Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt. He also expressed the hope that trade between the two countries will increase and that the shares of the commercial centers of the two countries will also increase.

The protocol will allow an increase in the volume of trade between the two countries to $50 million per year--$25 million for each country. According to the protocol, commodities exchanged between the two countries will be exempt from customs duties, fees and other taxes. Hard, transferable currency will be used in the exchange of commodities between the two countries.

The instruments were signed for Jordan by Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani and for Egypt by the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

OFFICIAL OUTLINES POLICY TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

JN251649Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, acting minister of state for foreign affairs [and information minister], summoned to his office today the heads of the diplomatic missions in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He explained to them the Jordanian stand on the efforts for peace, affirming the importance of the principles and bases which govern the Jordanian stand regarding the Camp David agreements. He also explained the components of the Jordanian view of the process of a comprehensive peaceful settlement aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The minister affirmed that Jordan supports a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement which will realize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their soil, Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over all these territories, particularly Arab Jerusalem.

The minister explained that Jordan has sincerely contributed to the peace efforts since it accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242. At the same time, it is determined not to relinquish the principles of a just peace which are affirmed in the various international resolutions passed since the June 1967 war.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC2511559Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Today the Foreign Ministry witnessed intensive diplomatic efforts devoted to the gathering of information related to the outcome of the Camp David conference and the general Arab situation in light of the latest developments.

Minister Butrus began his diplomatic contacts at 0930 this morning by meeting the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, Richard Parker. The meeting last 1 full hour, at the end of which the following dialog took place between Ambassador Parker and journalists.

He was asked: Did you convey official information on the outcome of the Camp David conference to Minister Butrus?

Ambassador Parker replied: I gave him the information available to me on the Camp David conference and on Secretary Vance's visit to the region. Asked whether Vance's talks during his visit to the Arab countries dealt with the Lebanese situation, he replied: They dealt with everything.

Asked why Secretary Vance did not visit Lebanon, Ambassador Parker replied: No comment.

Regarding the visit of a U.S. official to Beirut in the near future, he replied: I have no information on this subject.

As for the fate of the Palestinians residing in Lebanon following the Camp David conference's resolutions, Ambassador Parker replied: I do not know how to answer this question because there is nothing in the Camp David agreements related to the Palestinians in Lebanon. However, generally speaking, I hope there will be a solution to the Palestinians' problem, God willing.

The U.S. ambassador was told that there is apprehension lest the crisis be solved at the expense of the Lebanese, to which he replied: God willing. I hope it will not be solved at the Lebanese people's expense.

Asked whether he had informed Minister Butrus about the U.S.-French-Egyptian plan concerning the solution of the Lebanese crisis, Ambassador Parker replied: There is no U.S.-French plan, and I have no knowledge about the source of this report.

Meets Saudi Ambassador

NC2512127 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 Minister Butrus met with the Saudi Ambassador in Lebanon, Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. The meeting lasted 45 minutes, at the end of which the Saudi ambassador said: I reviewed with Minister Butrus various matters related to the Lebanese situation at the current delicate stage.

Asked whether he has conveyed the outcome of Secretary Vance's talks in Riyadh to Minister Butrus, Lieutenant General ash-Sha'ir replied: Our discussions dealt with these subjects.

Asked if the U.S.-Saudi Arabian discussions included the Lebanese situation, Ash-Sha'ir replied: All efforts are being made for Lebanon's benefit; I cannot divulge more than that at this stage.

On the question of the renewal of the Arab Deterrent Forces' mandate, he was Minister Butrus give new official information today about Lebanon's desire to renew the deterrent forces' mandate? The Saudi ambassador replied: Lebanon will outline this issue in forthcoming meetings. I outlined our position concerning the renewal after my meeting with the president last week.

Question: 6 days ago, President as-Sadat announced a plan prepared by President Carter with the participation of Saudi Arabia and France concerning the solution of the Lebanese crisis. To this, Kabbah replied: Sincerely, and personally speaking, I have no information whatsoever on this subject.

Minister Butrus refrained from making any statement on his diplomatic consultations.

INA: LEBANON TO SEND ENVOYS TO EXPLAIN SITUATION

JN2510507 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1012 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 September--It was reported here today that the Lebanese Government is thinking about sending several high-ranking envoys to foreign capitals to explain the situation in Lebanon following recent developments in the area.

The newspaper AL-ANWAR reports that foreign minister Fu'ad Butrus might make a tour for this purpose to several major foreign capitals before he leaves for New York to participate in the ordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

VOL: SHAM'UN CALLS FOR SYRIAN FORCES' WITHDRAWAL

NC2607177 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 26 Sep 78 NC

[Text] In a statement made this morning, former President Camille Sham'un said he has received reports indicating that the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces will be renewed unconditionally, despite the existence of an alleged security plan. He added that this makes the president, the prime minister and the ministers directly responsible for every shell or bullet fired, for every fallen victim and for every house or establishment demolished, as well as being responsible for the political consequences that will arise in the future.

Former President Sham'un affirmed that in the wake of the rejection states' summit meeting, the Syrian forces will increase their violence in Lebanon. These forces will become more of an occupation force than they are now. This will lead to incidents and transgressions more ferocious than before.

Former President Sham'un said there is an issue which has drawn his attention in view of its gravity. Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has emphatically told the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE that the Israeli forces will not withdraw from the Golan Heights, which they have been holding since 1967. Therefore, President al-Asad--as I said in my open letter to him--must try to regain the Golan Heights instead of committing aggression against Lebanon, which enjoys excellent status in its capacity as a prominent member of the United Nations. Former President Sham'un noted that Syria has many more troops in Lebanon than it has on the Golan Heights.

Asked to comment on a statement by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, in which he called for keeping the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, former President Sham'un said: We insist on the withdrawal of the deterrent forces. We do not harbor any wicked plans for the Palestinians living in Lebanon. On the contrary, we harbor every good intention for them, provided they do not consider Lebanon as a homeland for them, whereas it is for the Lebanese, and provided they do not do anything to disturb security inside Lebanon and on the Lebanese border [with Israel].

Former President Sham'un reaffirmed his opposition to President Sarkis' forthcoming visit to Damascus, a visit which will be an insult to Lebanon's dignity. He demanded that the Lebanese-Syrian summit--if it is so necessary--be held in Shtawrah, because Lebanon's dignity does not allow the head of state to turn for advice to any quarter other than the Lebanese people and their institutions.

AN-NAHAR: U.S. BELIEVES DETERRENT FORCES NECESSARY

JN251048Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 September--The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR has reported that President Ilyas Sarkis has received information from the United States to the effect that the presence of the deterrent forces in Lebanon is necessary to restore law and order there.

AN-NAHAR, published here today, adds that this official information was reflected in the speech which President Sarkis made on the second anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers since he called for rebuilding the army and conducting a national reconciliation among the disputing Lebanese sides.

VOL REPORTS MEETING OF PHALANGIST LEADERS IN NORTH

NC251515Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Today Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil presided over a joint meeting of the partisan emergency body and the northern districts' Phalangist officials. Discussions at the meeting centered on the security situation in the northern area. The meeting also dealt with social, security and political conditions in the light of current circumstances and future plans.

The Phalangist officials in the north informed the Phalangist leader about the deteriorating security conditions in that area, which are similar to the occurrences which took place in Shikka prior to the security explosion in the north. The participants expressed apprehension that these occurrences may lead to dangerous repercussions, particularly from the standpoint of acquiring aid from foreign forces in order to wreak vengeance on the Lebanese citizens.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL HEAD SCORES CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

NC251458Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] In the framework of his visits to Lebanese personalities and officials, U.S. Ambassador Parker visited Lawyer Shafiq al-Wazzan, the head of the Islamic Council, at noon today.

After the meeting, Al-Wazzan stated: This was a courtesy visit in the framework of Ambassador Parker's farewell visits. It was also an occasion for a discussion of various topics, particularly those related to the outcome of the Camp David summit. On this occasion I expressed the citizens' true impressions. They were stunned by the outcome of the Camp David conference because it implies a blatant disregard of the Palestinian peoples' cause and their rights, coupled with an acceptance of the Israeli usurpation. This agreement should be considered a time bomb. It is of no help in the achievement of peace which we and the world desire--a lasting and comprehensive peace--for there will be no peace in the shadow of injustice and aggression.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES' SOURCE ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC251122Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source in the Arab Deterrent Forces Command made a statement on the security situation on Sunday night. The source said: Armed men in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Tahwitat Furn ash-Shubbak resumed their provocations against the Arab Deterrent Forces stationed in the Chevrolet and Galerie Sim'an areas. This incident took place yesterday at 2130, following a very quiet weekend in the capital and its suburbs. They continuously shelled the aforementioned areas with mortar fire for 30 minutes, but the Arab Deterrent Forces did not retaliate with a single shot. The shelling grew fiercer later on with the use of heavy machineguns. The Arab Deterrent Forces' source added that some of the armed men tried to infiltrate some of the deterrent forces' positions located on the Al-Basha bridge. At that point, there was no choice but to stop these provocations with the appropriate means. The sources of fire were then silenced and the infiltrators repulsed at 0030 today, 25 September 1978.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI GUNBOATS ATTEMPT LANDING

JN231113Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 23 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 September--Three naval vessels accompanied by five rubber boats belonging to the Zionist enemy attempted to land this morning on the shore near Ra's al-'Ayn, 7 km southeast of Tyre. An INA correspondent in the area reports that the coastal resistance of the joint forces opened fire on the vessels, forcing them to withdraw. He said that the same gunboats tried again to land on the shore near (Az-Zalat) opposite the town of Qulaylah southeast of Ryre, but the Fiji forces operating within the UNIFIL forces opened fire forcing them to turn back toward An-Naqurah.

AL-ASAD TO MEET WITH KING OF JORDAN 26 SEP

JN260715Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad will initiate his political moves today by a visit to fraternal Jordan. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal as part of the Arab contacts which his excellency will make in the name of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation in order to explain the resolutions of the front's third summit which concluded its meetings in Damascus on Saturday night; work to provide the maximum political and material support for these resolutions to confront the plot being perpetrated by Anwar as-Sadat's regime; and foil all forms of capitulationist and defeatist settlements which serve the ambitions of imperialism and Zionism throughout the Arab homeland. The president's political moves are also aimed at achieving the aspirations of the Arab nation in building a power capable of coping with all dangers, liberating the occupied Arab areas, regaining the constant national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and protecting the Palestine issue against all plots to liquidate it.

President al-Asad will be accompanied on his visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, member of the Central Command of the Progressive Nationalist Front Fawzi al-Kayyali, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi.

PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY REJECTS U.S. PLAN ON GOLAN

NC251029Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 25 September--In a dispatch from Damascus, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports that during his brief visit to Damascus yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance presented to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a complete plan for starting negotiations regarding the Golan Heights but the Syrian president refused even to see it.

The newspaper also reports that within 48 hours the Syrian president will start a tour of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the gulf states and then East Germany.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reports that the Damascus summit adopted several secret resolutions of paramount importance. Only the heads of state and the foreign ministers who took part in the Damascus summit know about these secret resolutions.

IRAQI GROUPING PRAISES STEADFASTNESS CONFERENCES

JN250938Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] The National Iraqi Grouping has expressed its absolute support for the third conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which concluded its meeting in Damascus 2 days ago.

The grouping has sent a cable of support to the conference. The cable says that the National Iraqi Grouping announces to the Iraqi public and world public opinion its denunciation of the ill-omened Camp David summit. The grouping strongly condemned the treasonous agreements signed between As-Sadat and Begin.

In its cable, the grouping calls for the immediate implementation of the resolutions of the third conference and for adopting all measures necessary to thwart the plot and torpedo the defeatist solutions by means of stepping up the struggle against the enemy, insuring the sound requisites of steadfastness and supporting Syria and its steadfastness.

In its cable, the grouping pledged to the Arab nation that it will continue the struggle to topple the suspicious rightist regime in Baghdad which is playing the same role as that of traitor As-Sadat.

SYRIAN-CYPRIOT TALKS IN DAMASCUS REPORTED

JN251027Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] The first round of talks was held in Damascus yesterday between the Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and a delegation representing the Cypriot Progressive Party of the Working People [AKEL] led by Andreas Pandis, deputy secretary general.

The talks revolved around issues of concern to the two parties. The talks also centered on the Middle East situation and the imperialist-Zionist plots in this area.

Comrade Pandis comprehensively explained the situation in Cyprus and the severe struggle being waged by the Cypriot people and their patriotic and progressive forces against imperialism and for evacuating foreign troops from the island; liquidating foreign bases; preserving Cyprus' integral unity; defending its security, safety and independence; respecting its sovereignty and implementing the UN resolutions regarding these issues.

Comrade Pandis asserted AKEL's absolute support for the Arab people's struggle to liberate all the occupied Arab territories and guarantee the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to determine their future and to set up their independent state on their land.

Comrade Pandis expressed AKEL's strong denunciation of As-Sadat's treasonous policy and his capitulationist steps, the latest of which was the convocation of the Camp David summit and the conclusion of the humiliating agreements. Pandis asserted that this policy and these agreements constitute a tool to implement the imperialist-Zionist plots and the expansionist and aggressive Zionist objectives.

Comrade (Panikes) expressed AKEL's appreciation for the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, the backbone of which is represented by Syria. He asserted that this front is the only means capable of thwarting the imperialist and Zionist plots in the area and toppling As-Sadat's capitulationist policy. He praised the Third Conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, and expressed his party's support for the positive resolutions.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN PRAGUE

JN211917Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Prague--Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, arrived in Prague this afternoon at the head of an assembly delegation on an official 6-day visit to Czechoslovakia. The People's Assembly speaker and the delegation accompanying him were received by Vaclav David, deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly, and several senior officials.

Hear As-Sadat Assailed

JN222055Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Alois Indra, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly, has stated that his country considers the Middle East situation dangerous not only to the states in the region but also to world peace.

In a speech he gave yesterday during the meeting between the Syrian People's Assembly delegation and the Czechoslovak National Assembly delegation, Mr Indra said the responsibility for this situation lies with Israel, which is still carrying out a repressive policy with the support of the United States of America.

Mr Indra reiterated his country's support for the just Arab rights and for the Arab struggle, and said that Anwar as-Sadat betrayed the Arab interests and dealt a grave blow to the Arab ranks as a result of his signing the agreements of surrender at Camp David. He said that these agreements will not have any positive result.

Mr Indra lauded the wisdom and courage of President Hafiz al-Asad and the militant stands of Syria and its courageous steadfastness in facing all the imperialist and Zionist plots.

Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, made a speech in reply in which he reiterated Syria's determination and the determination of the Arab masses and their progressive and nationalist forces to continue the path of steadfastness and confrontation. He praised the stands of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia and the other socialist states in support of Arab rights. He said that we will continue our struggle and will not yield to any force. He repeated President al-Asad's remark that we prefer waging a hundred wars to yielding one inch of our land.

Mr Hadid said that the policy of capitulation followed by Anwar-Sadat will end in failure and that victory will always be for the struggling people.

Meets With Czechoslovak Leaders

JN2608472 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Prague--At 1530 yesterday Dr Gustav Husak, president of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, received the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic's People's Assembly under Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly. The delegation is currently visiting Czechoslovakia. The meeting was attended by the speaker of the Czechoslovak Federal Parliament, the Syrian ambassador in Prague, and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, Speaker Hadid conveyed a verbal message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and from the leadership of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party to President Husak. They also discussed the relations between the two countries and the situation in the Middle East area.

Comrade Hadid asserted the significance of the talks which his delegation had with the officials of the Czechoslovak Federal Parliament and the Czechoslovak National Assembly. He pointed out that the talks were successful and that views were identical on all questions discussed.

Speaker Hadid lauded the development of relations between the two countries and expressed his hope that these relations will continue to grow. He then explained Syria's constant and principled stands toward the current issues. He said the Syrian position is based on the need for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination.

Speaking about the Camp David conference, Speaker Hadid emphasized that the results of the conference were acquiescence and capitulation. He said: However, these results will not weaken the march of Arab struggle. On the contrary, the Arab masses will increase their determination to continue this march. The conference will also be an incentive for the Arab people of Egypt to rectify the deviant road and to topple the regime of capitulation and defeatism.

President Husak then spoke. Lauding Syria's steadfast stand under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, he reasserted Czechoslovakia's support for the Syrian Arab people's just struggle. President Husak asked Speaker Hadid to convey a verbal message to President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. President Husak expressed hope that he will be able to visit Syria next year.

Speaker Mahmud Hadid and his delegation visited Dr Lubomir Strougal, premier of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by the Syrian ambassador in Prague and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries in particular and the situation in the Middle East area in general.

Premier Strougal lauded Syria's steadfastness and struggle under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He emphasized the significance of Syria's role in the area, describing it as a vanguard role of leadership. He also lauded the summit conference of the Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation held recently in Damascus and the results and resolutions of the conference. He expressed his country's desire to develop and strengthen the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

Premier Strougal denounced the Camp David conference and its results and asserted that these results are doomed. He said Syria and the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front can depend on the support of Czechoslovakia and all the socialist countries. He said Israel is a base for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East area.

Premier Strougal reaffirmed Czechoslovakia's support for Arab rights and Arab people's struggle, whose aim is to liberate the lands and to regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination.

Speaker Hadid replied by expressing his appreciation for the stands of Czechoslovakia and the other socialist countries. He pointed out that Syria is shouldering a heavy burden because it is the major confrontation state in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism. Speaker Hadid said that the primary objective of the imperialist and Zionist designs is to strike at the Arab national liberation movement and to strangle Syria and the Palestinian resistance movement. However, we are confident that we are capable of foiling all the designs, liberating our lands, and defeating all our imperialist and Zionist enemies.

Speaker Hadid said that despite all difficulties and burdens, Syria is determined to continue on the path of struggle.

Prior to visiting Premier Strougal, Speaker Hadid and his delegation visited the deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak National Front, who explained the basis upon which the Czechoslovak National Front is established as well as its fundamental principles and objectives on the various levels. He also enumerated the parties and organizations affiliated with the front.

GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES

JN221442Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Sep 78 JN

[Text] The Greek Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Florakis, secretary general of the party, left Damascus this morning for home following a 5-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During this visit, the Greek delegation was received by the comrade assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party. The delegation also held political talks with the Ba'th Party group headed by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and head of the party Foreign Relations Office. The delegation also met with several officials in the party National Command, visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah and familiarized itself with the country's important socialist, historical and cultural achievements.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh. A joint statement on the visit will be issued tomorrow night.

Comrade Florakis has made a statement to the correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY in which he expressed his thanks to government and party officials in Syria for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded the delegation. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, for receiving the delegation.

Comrade Florakis said that he noted during his meeting with leading members of the party that there is a determination to continue the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He reaffirmed the Greek Communist Party's support for and solidarity with the Arab people's struggle to liberate all the occupied territories and to regain the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Comrade Florakis expressed the hope that the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation will achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Arab people. He said that he will explain the just cause of the Arab people to the workers and people of Greece.

Statement Issued

JN231835Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Sep 78 JN

[Text] A joint statement was issued today at the conclusion of the visit by the Greek Communist Party delegation to Syria at the invitation of the National Command of the Ba'th Party. The statement affirmed that the separate negotiations between the Egyptian regime and the racist Zionist entity, Israel, starting from the As-Sadat visit to Israel and ending with the Camp David conference, have greatly harmed international endeavors to solve the Middle East problem in a just and comprehensive manner. These negotiations, the statement added, have led toward breaking up Arab solidarity in the face of the imperialist Zionist enemy. The statement said that a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem can be established only if the Israeli forces withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and the national rights of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, are recognized, including their right to return, decide their own fate and establish their independent state in their homeland, Palestine.

The Greek Communist Party delegation highly appreciated the current efforts exerted by Syria to preserve the unity of the Lebanese land and people and to preserve its independence and to prevent any interference in its internal affairs. The Greek delegation also expressed its condemnation of the Israeli attempts--through support for the communal militias--to prevent the Lebanese Government from extending its control and sovereignty to all parts of Lebanon.

The two sides declared their absolute support for the unity of the island of Cyprus and the safeguarding of its sovereignty, independence and unity. They also declared their opposition to any interference in its internal affairs by any foreign country. The two sides condemned all the attempts aimed at dividing the island and demanded the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Cyrpus and the full implementation of the UN resolutions.

Concluding the statement, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the existing friendly relations between their two parties and agreed to implement a joint plan of action to back and strengthen the friendly ties between them.

SYRIAN, VIETNAMESE TALKS BEGIN IN DAMASCUS

JN260833Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The first session of talks between a delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Comrade Taha al-Khayrat, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and minister of local government, and a party-government delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under Comrade My Phan, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party and minister director of the premier's office, began at the National Command building yesterday evening.

At the beginning of the session, Comrade al-Khayrat welcomed the visiting delegation and wished it a successful and fruitful visit and a good stay in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Comrade My Phan expressed his thanks and that of his delegation to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command for extending this invitation to visit Syria. Comrade My Phan praised the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties and countries. He said that these relations are based on joint goals of struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for construction and progress.

Comrade My Phan expressed his country's appreciation of the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in confronting the capitulationist designs in the area. He said Syria, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, is the backbone of this front. He also expressed his country's appreciation of Syria's vanguard role in the world national liberation movement and the nonalined movement as well as its honorable role in Lebanon.

Comrade My Phan denounced the Camp David agreements, which have consolidated occupation and aggression and overlooked the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Concluding his statement, Comrade My Phan asserted the support of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Vietnamese Government and people for the Syrian Arab people and the Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle to liberate all the occupied Arab areas and regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland under the leadership of the PLO--the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Comrade al-Khayrat then spoke about the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its struggle against the designs of imperialism and Zionism in the area. Comrade al-Khayrat also explained the current political situation beginning with As-Sadat's treasonous visit to occupied Jerusalem and ending with the conclusion of the two Camp David agreements. Comrade al-Khayrat also explained the political and struggle tasks of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. He said the front's resolutions are a practical reply to the imperialist and Zionist designs and to the capitulationist and humiliating stands in the area.

Comrade al-Khayrat asserted that just peace in the area can only be established when the Israeli forces withdraw from all the occupied Arab areas and when the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate rights.

Comrade al-Khayrat also explained the honorable role in Lebanon of the Syrian Arab Republic, whose aim is to protect Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity and to preserve the Palestinian presence and revolution.

Comrade al-Khayrat then spoke about the good relations existing between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Vietnamese Communist Party and between the Syrian Arab Republic and the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He lauded these relations and said that these relations are constantly developing and being strengthened and that this visit is one of the positive fruits of these relations.

Comrade al-Khayrat expressed the support of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab Republic for the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to overcome economic difficulties and the heavy burdens left over by imperialism in Vietnam. He also expressed the support of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Government for the people's struggle in Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism, Zionism and racism for their freedom and independence.

The talks between the two delegations will be resumed later this week.

ALGERIA

VIETNAMESE VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD251352Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Excerpt] Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived at Dar el Beida airport late this morning. He was welcomed by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, accompanied by Redha Malek, minister for information and culture, and Djamal Houbou, minister for youth and sports.

The vice president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is accompanied by a strong delegation, including Dang Thi, minister of the premier's office; No Dong Giang, vice minister for foreign affairs; and Vu Quoc Uy, acting president of the commission for foreign cultural relations.

After reviewing a detachment of troops, Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho and Abdelaziz Bouteflika listened to the national anthems of Vietnam and Algeria.

After a few moment's rest in the VIP lounge, the vice president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam made a brief statement in which he said he is very happy to visit Algeria and to see once again his close comrades in arms. Allow me to convey to the brother Algerian people and the inhabitants of the beautiful [word indistinct] capital, Algiers, my sincerest and most cordial feelings.

Vietnam and Algeria, he said, have been closely linked for a long time in the joint struggle against imperialism and colonialism. We have encouraged and supported each other in the struggle for peace, national independence and social progress. The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at the achievements of the Algerian people since independence under the leadership of the Council of the Revolution, the FLN and the Algerian Government, led by President Houari Boumediene, in developing the economy and building the defense of their country, Nguyen Huu Tho said.

He added that in their just struggle against imperialism and in their present work of construction and national defense, the Vietnamese people have always found a constant friend in the Algerian people, in strict execution of the testament of beloved Chairman Ho Chi Minh. On behalf of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam allow me to express to the Algerian people, the Council of the Revolution, the FLN Party and the Government of Algeria my sincere thanks (?for their precious support and aid). In conclusion Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, expressed his firm conviction that the present visit of friendship to Algeria will contribute toward the consolidation and strengthening of the fighting solidarity and relations of friendship and fraternal operation between the Vietnamese and Algerian peoples.

EL MOUDJAHID INTERVIEWS POLISARIO LEADER HADRANI

LD221313Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Sep 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[R. Quandjeli interview with POLISARIO leader Omar Hadrami: "Fourth POLISARIO Congress will decide whether or not to maintain cease-fire in Mauritania"--date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] "We will respect the cease-fire we decreed toward Mauritania at least until the fourth POLISARIO Congress, which will be held at the end of the month." Saharan leader Omar Hadrani can say no more on the subject.

The decision is not up to him. The lifting or continuation of the cease-fire in Mauritanian territory will be the sole responsibility of the Saharan revolution. "That is logical," our interlocutor said. "At these next meetings we will carry out a thorough review of the present situation. We will sort out the concrete acts and the mere declarations of intent which have followed the POLISARIO's decision of 12 July. We will see if the Mauritanian leaders really have the will to work for the establishment of peace, which must first and foremost take into account our people's rights. Similarly, we will examine the true objectives and all these 'initiatives' which have sprung up all over the place."

The fact is that at POLISARIO headquarters there is speculation on the nature of the peace people are trying to establish. They are keen to remind us first that the POLISARIO's gesture is at the root of the process which appears to be moving into gear. "If there is talk of peace today, it is chiefly the result of the Saharan people's gesture. The POLISARIO can only welcome all initiatives leading to a just solution to the problem. Let us not forget one fact: Neither Mauritania nor Morocco is being attacked. It is the Saharan people who are victims of an aggression and an attempt quite simply to liquidate them."

Thus, 2 months after taking the unilateral decision to cease temporarily all military operations in Mauritania, the POLISARIO is waiting for a concrete response. Certainly it has been noted that Nouakchott considers the POLISARIO an active partner in any peace negotiations. Certainly they have noted "this dynamic of peace" of which the Mauritanian leaders often speak. But Omar Hadrani stresses: "The only peace we will accept is one which restores our rights, our homeland and which will expel the armies of aggression from our territory. And in our view the most appropriate framework of any peace process remains the international authorities."

As far as the Saharan leader is concerned, the change of regime in Mauritania is not an end in itself. It was and is of far greater concern to the Mauritanians. "We sympathize with anything which may be in the interests of the Mauritanian people. But--for there is a but--it is not who governs in Mauritania which interests us, but that government's attitude toward the war, to the aggression launched against our country. It has been claimed that the Mauritanian people's interest does not lie in the war. So much the better. But the interests of the Saharan people, their situation, have not been mentioned."

Mr Hadrani recalls that there is a factor in Mauritania which the POLISARIO takes into account: the presence of 9,000 Moroccan soldiers. "There is no reason, no valid argument for this presence. In any event, the POLISARIO will not accept any blackmail, any use of this presence to justify the lack of clarity or any confusion at a time when we are talking of a 'dynamic of peace.' In the past Spain evoked the danger of the Moroccan bugbear to block the situation. We do not believe in this bugbear. We proved it against the Spanish colonialists. We will prove it again today. Morocco cannot prevent anyone from making peace. The POLISARIO, its fighters and the Saharan people can deal with the Moroccan aggression. Let them only work for justice for the Saharan people, and refrain from helping the Moroccan aggressors, and we promise to settle our account with the king ourselves."

Thus, the king's "intransigence," his desire to become even more deeply involved in an adventure which is already disastrous for him, is merely evidence in fact that Rabat is panicking in the face of the bitter defeats it has suffered on the military, diplomatic and political levels. Has the Moroccan south not become the favorite hunting ground for the Saharan guerrillas?

This is why peace will be on the agenda at the fourth congress. But also war, the armed struggle which must be continued until national independence is achieved. "The Saharan people have never been as mobilized and as efficient since there has been talk of peace initiatives. They are aware of the dangers threatening them. Because for some people, those who have interests to protect in Mauritania, peace means primarily preserving the iron ore deposits at Guelbs since the Zouerate deposits have become exhausted. For others it is a question of talking peace in order to make it easier to block matters. You can be sure, for example, that as the opening of the UN Assembly approaches, a clamor will go up to revive the idea of the ad hoc committee so as to drag out the procedure."

In the view of the POLISARIO, "legitimate representative of the entire Saharan people, peace can mean no outcome but freedom and independence."

LIBYA

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SECRETARIAT SESSION OPENS

LD251516Y Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, September 25, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress commenced its seventh session yesterday by discussing the agenda of the meeting due to be held in the conference hall at Al-Shatii Hotel in Tripoli, today at 7.30 p.m. The session was headed by Mr. 'Umar al-Hamdi, secretary-general of the Permanent Secretariat.

The opening reception was attended by heads of members of the delegations of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, Mr. 'Abd al-Majid Farid, president of the Arab People's Congress, the president of the People's Congresses Bureau, and the president of the People's Committees Bureau in the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, and a number of people concerned with the current Arab political issues.

The agenda included 3 basic points:

1--The review of the Arab and international political stand, and measures to be taken to deal with the important and urgent issue, particularly the two capitulationist accords of "Stable David".

2--The study of the cause of national confrontation and steadfastness and the support of Syria, and the P.L.O. and the Lebanese patriotic progressive movement.

3--The study of the draft constitution of the National Popular Front.

At the beginning of the opening session, Mr. 'Umar al-Hamdi explained the full rejection of the Permanent Secretariat of Arab People's Congress for the two "Stable David" accords.

He said that the action of the Permanent Secretariat, since its setting up until today, always constituted an initiative for the progressive and national struggle, which affirmed the soundness of the duties that the Arabs have pledged themselves to achieve, by mobilizing Arab capabilities, and escalating the struggle against American imperialism to confront the plots of the racist Zionist enemy, represented by the accords signed by the Egyptian president at "Stable David," an accord which aims at liquidating the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and isolating Egypt from the Arab nation.

Message to Steadfastness Members

LD251902Y Tripoli JANA in English 1500 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, September 25, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress sent a message to the members of Confrontation and Steadfastness Front following the end of discussions of the first item on the agenda. The message reads as follows:

Brothers, members of the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front: Greetings of a nation struggling for its homeland.

The members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress meeting in Tripoli address you, expressing their greetings and appreciation for the responsible national efforts spent and actions taken which led to the announcement of such important resolutions at the third meeting for the confrontation and steadfastness summit, resolutions which the Arab nation will struggle in order to interpret and implement in order to control the situation in the area, foil all capitulationist and defeatist policies, impose the Arab nation's will on all enemies, and tear off all capitulationist accords signed by those defeated (?as) the enemies of the Arab nation, and to impose sanctions against the interests of American imperialism in the Arab homeland.

Brother strugglers, at a time where struggle is precious; the resolutions of the Arab People's Congress which emerged to express and to materialize the will of the Arab masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf; by rejecting defeat, clinching to the rights, defending the national existence, and struggling for Arab unity, victory, the liberation of Palestine and of all national lands; these resolutions were adopted to support and confirm all the general resolutions which emerged from your third historical meeting.

We also affirm that the Permanent Secretariat, in its sixth session on 25 July 1978, had adopted a number of resolutions, including Resolution No 6, which specifies the urgency of fortifying the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front; and developing its military capabilities by providing the strongest material and military support to Syria as it stands at the front line in confrontation with (Israel); and by inviting Iraq to join the front according to a programme of struggle, which would mobilise the capabilities of the Arab nation confronting the aggression; and by calling for the 3rd summit meeting for mobilising the Arab forces and foil the conspiracy and capitulationist plots.

Hence, we affirm to the Arab masses that joining forces and supporting this front became the only hope in confronting the reactionary-Zionist-imperialist conspiracy. On this occasion, we would like to refer to the Resolution No 7 of the same meeting that specifies the urgency to struggle and achieve objective circumstances for a creative unified action by Algeria and the Jamahiriyah on one hand and Iraq and Syria on the other, and to be joined by those who are capable of participating in this serious action based on the escalation of the struggle in order to liberate all occupied national lands.

On this occasion, we would like to express our gratitude and consideration as you devoted due attention to the issue of Arab unity. Once more, we congratulate the Arab nation on the success that has been achieved by the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, in restoring self-confidence to the Arab nation, and enabling it to raise its head despite the wounds inflicted on it at a time when As-Sadat devoted his efforts to destroy the reputation of the Arab nation.

The Permanent Secretariat, as it bears its national responsibilities at this crucial time in the history of our Arab nation, would like to declare its support to and solidarity with the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front.

Victory to our Arab nation, liberation to the whole of Palestine, down with all reactionary-Zionist-imperialist plots.

Further Report on Proceedings

LD251956Y Tripoli JANA in English 1512 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--In his opening speech, Mr 'Umar al-Hamdi added: "That does not only add to deeply-rooted facts in the Arab homeland a new situation where the racialist Zionist enemy becomes an actual fact, but it also provides security for the forces of the racist (Israeli) enemy, so that they would not be forced to fight on two fronts and so that emigration and the aggressive settlements in Arab occupied land would still be possible, not only through the racist Zionist entity which had been created by force, but through the creation of American military bases in Sinai, which support the Zionist invasion and settlements, and threaten Arab oil fields and the whole Arab existence from the Atlantic to the gulf."

Dr. al-Hamdi indicated that the "Stable David" agreements are not only the consequence of the treacherous course followed by the Egyptian president as he visited occupied Jerusalem, but they also clearly represent the beginning of a declared American military involvement against the Arab nation.

He affirmed that this stage was a decisive one which would tolerate no hesitation because it could not bear the traditional style of action which had hitherto been used in facing aggressive conspiracies against the rights of our nation.

Mr. al-Hamdi said that the General Secretariat must endeavour to table a political and information complementary programme which would make it possible to tackle these matters, which aim at fighting the moral and political damage caused to the Arab stand by As-Sadat, even since his visit to occupied Jerusalem and which would succeed in restoring stability in the area through a conscious struggle against the enemy camp.

The president and members of the General Secretariat devoted a working session to analyse and comment on the capitulationist "Stable David" agreements in the light of the study put forward by the heads of delegations, and which had been prepared during the last two days in conformity with the current events.

Moreover, Mr. 'Abd al-Majid Farid, president of the Arab People's Congress, and one of the first speakers, referred to the necessity for the General Secretariat, under the present circumstances, to investigate what could be done to counter As-Sadat's moves and the "Stable David" agreements in order to eliminate their effects and consequences and to explain to the Arab masses and to enemies, before friends, that the conclusion of these agreements by As-Sadat would neither bring about the results nor meet the hopes expected.

He added: "We must adopt a comprehensive revolutionary line to confront this historical absurdity."

AT-TURAYKI MEETS WITH SYRIAN COUNTERPART

LD251506Y Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, September 25, JANA--The foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, held a meeting yesterday morning with the Syrian foreign affairs minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, to study the practical measures to be taken to ensure the implementation of the resolutions taken by the presidents of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

JANA was informed that the foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front have agreed on the complete coordination of their work in order to carry out the historic resolutions adopted [words indistinct]. JANA's correspondent in Damascus said that agreement had been reached to take the necessary measures, get in touch with the U.N. Secretary-General, the non-alined countries, the Organization of African Unity and the Islamic countries in respect of the historic resolutions adopted in Damascus two days ago, and to explain the front's stand towards the shame and humiliation accords signed at "Stable David" by the Egyptian president and terrorist Begin.

JANA's correspondent pointed out that agreement had been reached for the immediate execution of the boycott decision against the Egyptian president.

The Libyan Arab Socialist People's Jamahiriyah is known to have cut all diplomatic relations with the regime of the Egyptian president ever since he ventured on his treacherous and shameful visit to occupied Jerusalem during which he sold Arab land and honour, ignoring the opinion of the Arab nation and its long history of struggle.

DELEGATION IN ITALY INVESTIGATES FATE OF IMAM

LD222227Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Sep 78 LD

[Text] A Libyan Arab delegation led by Ahmad Shahati, head of the Foreign Liaison Office of the General People's Congress, continues its contacts with officials of the Italian Foreign Ministry concerning the grand Shi'ite Imam Musa as-Sadr. The delegation stressed the seriousness of the matter and its effect on Lebanon and the Arab region, explaining with documents the departure of the imam and his companions from Tripoli airport for Rome on 31 August 1978.

Shahati expressed the Jamahiriyah's desire to increase the efforts to search for the imam and to protect him and his companions. He also emphasized the Jamahiriyah's readiness to make every effort and cooperate with the Italian authorities concerned to secure new facts about his fate. The Italian side expressed readiness to cooperate and continue the joint efforts in this inquiry. The Libyan Arab delegation arrived in Rome on 19 September.

JALLUD RECEIVES VISITING FROLINAT DELEGATION

LD231310Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning received in his office at the People's Palace the delegation of the National Front for the Liberation of Chad [FROLINAT], headed by Goukouni Ouaddey.

MAURITANIA

STATEMENT ISSUED ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

LD222125Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Sep 78 LD

[Text] A final communique was released this evening in the wake of an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers. The communique stresses that Mauritania firmly and unconditionally stands by the just cause of the Palestinian people. Here is the full text of the communique:

At 1200 on 22 September 1978 the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting under the chairmanship of Lt Col Mustapha Ould Mohammed Salek, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and prime minister, in order to take cognizance of the final texts of the two agreements concluded at the Camp David summit and signed in Washington on 17 September 1978.

On this occasion, after having carefully considered the two agreements, the Mauritanian Government would like to announce the following:

1--Mauritania reaffirms its adherence to Arab unity and its absolute support for the cause of the Palestinian people, their established right to return to their homeland and to live in a free, independent Palestinian state.

2--Mauritania reaffirms its recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat Arab summits. At the same time Mauritania reaffirms its support for the PLO in its struggle against Zionism and for the restoration of national independence to Palestine.

3--While giving support in principle to all efforts to seek peace through peaceful means, and while refraining from intervening in the domestic affairs of any other Arab state and respecting the free choice of all Arab countries, Mauritania nevertheless launches an urgent appeal to all Arab states urging these fraternal states to refrain from any action that is likely to intensify inter-Arab disputes and weaken the cohesion and harmony of Arab states. Mauritania calls on all Arab states to strengthen Arab ranks and protect the unity of our Arab nation.

The cabinet ended its meeting at 1400.

MOROCCO

ISTIQLAL PARTY REVIEWS RESULTS OF CAMP DAVID

LD251328Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--"The resolutions of the Rabat [as received] summit are a valuable framework for joint Arab action," a communique issued at the end of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Istiqlal Party (Moroccan Nationalist Party) states. The meeting was devoted to examining the results of the Camp David summit.

The communique issued by L'OPINION, paper of the Istiqlal Party, says that "all efforts should be focused on the defense of the national rights of the Palestinian people and on material and moral support for the Palestinian revolution."

"The Arab countries should overcome their marginal and artificial differences both in the Arab east and the Arab west and should consolidate their ranks in the face of the Zionist-colonialist danger."

The communique adds: "The international community should step up its pressure on the Zionist leaders in order to impose a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question."

SUDAN

STUDY OF CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS TO BEGIN

JN251332Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 25 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 September--The Foreign Relations Committee of the Socialist Union will meet the day after tomorrow to analyze the results of the Camp David conference and the influence these results might have on developments in the area. This is in conjunction with the instructions of President Ja'far Numayri to all political and legislative institutions to carry out such analyses and submit them to the joint meeting of the Politburo and the Council of Ministers. This meeting will be held after President Ja'far Numayri returns from abroad.

MINISTER OF CULTURE RELIEVED OF DUTIES

JN171154Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 17 September--It was announced today that the president of the republic has issued a decree relieving Culture and Information Minister Bona Malwal of his duties to enable him to continue his university studies for 1 year in the United Kingdom. Malwal will keep his post as member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union and will participate in the meetings of the Politburo during the period of his studies.

President Numayri received Malwal this morning and expressed his appreciation for the great services he had rendered during his service as minister of culture and information.

New Minister Appointed

JN171800Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 17 September--President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today issued a presidential decree appointing Mr 'Ali Shummu minister of culture and information. Mr Shummu succeeds Mr Bona Malwal, whose resignation has been accepted by the president. Up until now Mr Shummu held the post of minister of state for sports and youth.

TUNISIA

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS REPORTED

LD210916Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Sep 78 LD

[Text] According to presidential orders dated 20 September 1978, Chedli Klibi has been appointed minister of information; (Muhammad La'lawi) has been appointed minister for cultural affairs; and (Abdelaziz Bandia') has been appointed minister of higher education and scientific research.

According to another order on the same date, Mustapha Masmoudi has been appointed Tunisia's permanent delegate to UNESCO.

WESTERN SAHARA

PRIME MINISTER LAMINE ON CURRENT ISSUES

LD232004Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The Prime Minister of the Government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] Mr Mohamed Lamine has said in a declaration to APS that the good faith initiative taken by the POLISARIO Front in the form of a temporary halt of the fighting inside Mauritania might be reconsidered should the new Mauritanian officials resume the policy of former President Ould Daddah.

The prime minister of the SDAR Government told APS: Yes to the policy of a search for peace, but not at any cost. Referring to the recent declarations made by the Mauritanian president, Mr Mohamed Lamine said: As far as the Saharans are concerned, an eventual peace cannot be partial. We are defending our land to the bitter end, and this spirit will prevail during the session of the fourth POLISARIO Congress, which will define the policy to be conducted in the future. The congress, Mr Lamine added, will reaffirm to Mauritania, undoutedly, the desire of the Saharan people for peace, but the final decision will be taken by the congress, which is the supreme authority. Regarding the OAU, Mr Mohamed Lamine said that the organization has a historic responsibility, especially concerning assistance to the Saharan people to recover their independence. The Saharan Government prime minister believes that the role of the special commission that the 15th OAU summit in Khartoum had decided to set up is to prepare for the extraordinary OAU conference on Western Sahara.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES STATEMENT

LD260300Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The Saharan Government issued a statement Monday night saying that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmad in the liberated territories of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic on 23 and 24 September. At this meeting the council discussed reports on various subjects, particularly on health and education. The council then discussed the international situation and heard reports about the missions and contacts carried out by its members in recent weeks in a number of countries in Africa and other parts of the world. At the end of this meeting, the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Council of Ministers issued the following statement:

While totally adhering to the continuation of the struggle for national liberation and for protecting the territorial integrity of Western Sahara, the Saharan people, through their legitimate and sole representative--the POLISARIO Front--and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Government, are legally aiming at achieving peace. They spare no effort that might make the occupiers of our people come to their senses once more, with the aim of saving the region from the grave consequences that may result from continued occupation and expansion and from the denial of our people's national rights.

On the occasion of the convening of the fourth General People's Conference of the POLISARIO Front, a fresh peace initiative has been made. Moreover, a historic opportunity has been created, namely through the gesture of releasing the eight Spanish fishermen who were captured on the territory of the Saharan homeland. This gesture is a new demonstration of the good will of the Saharan people and an appeal to Spain to review the position that it has taken since the colonization of the Sahara and which has remained (?unchanged) so far and was publicly declared in the vile tripartite Madrid deal.

BEGIN ADDRESSES KNESSET ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

TA250936Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 0822 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Speech to Knesset by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 25 September--live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, I have no alternative but to repeat my remarks for the third time. [After several interruptions by MK Ge'ula Kohen.] I am bringing to the Knesset and, through it, to the nation, the structure for the making of peace with the strongest and greatest of the Arab countries and in the course of time, unavoidably, with all our neighbors. The documents agreed upon at the Camp David conference and signed by me on behalf of the Government of Israel, in the White House, are set out before you. Therefore I will not read them. I will not be able to make such a speech today, because of political, psychological reasons, I will not be able to reveal the contents of two other documents, which are the first Egyptian document which was presented to President Carter and me at our first meeting at Camp David, and the first U.S. document which was presented to the two delegations, the Israeli and the Egyptian. One of these days these two documents, too, will be published and then it will be made plain to everyone in Israel and the other countries of the world what we achieved and what we did not achieve; what we prevented, what we rejected, what we accepted and what sacrifices we made for the sake of peace, for the sake of preventing encirclement, for the sake of the wellbeing of our people and that of the people around us.

Before anything else, I wish, as is my duty, to thank the team: Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, without whose help and activity the achievement of the agreements would have been impossible; and our ambassador in the Unit[illegible] States, Simha Dinitz and Professor Baraq and Dr. Rosenne, our two thoroughly ex[illegible]egalists, who worked day and night. Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, one of the [illegible] experts on Israel's security; Brigadier General Poran; Col Ilan Tehila [illegible] Gadishay, Dan Pattir, Eli Rubinstein and our security staff, who guarded [illegible] day with boundless devotion and loyalty. We had a team. We worked as [illegible] every meeting between us and the U.S. delegation, after every talk [illegible] our colleagues and one of the members of the Egyptian delegation, we would meet, whether it was day or night, for a joint consultation, and each of the delegation members, with no difference of national rank, expressed his views with complete freedom and everyone tried to take into account the views of the others. To this team I will say, in plain words, all honor is due.

From this podium I am again going to thank the President of the United States, Mr Jimmy Carter, for the very fact of his initiative in convening such an unprecedented conference. We searched through the history of the last century for precedents for the Camp David conference; we did not find any. This was a unique conference and the U.S. President initiated it, conducted it, devoted to it not only days, but nights, too; worked until dawn and after an hour or so was on his feet again; took a direct interest in the formulations and not only in the ideas, deliberated with us on every clause, on every sentence, on every word and sometimes, as I will yet prove, even on every letter. There were difficulties at the conferences. They were unavoidable. There were crises at the conference. Those, too, could not have been prevented from the beginning.

The U.S. President never despaired for even a moment, even at the gravest moments, and he believed that the end would be positive. He went from representative to representative and never did he hesitate to suggest visiting the cabins of the heads of the Egyptian and Israeli delegations. He did not rest, did not flag, he did not despair until the tripartite agreement was achieved. I am sure that I will express the views of all the members of the Knesset if from here, from Jerusalem, from the podium of the house of the elected, I send our heartfelt thanks and recognition to the President of the United States for his initiative, for his toil and for his devotion during the days of the deliberations at that important international conference.

Mr Chairman, the decisive importance of the agreement with Egypt lies in the fact that this time we committed ourselves to sign a peace treaty. No more partial agreements. No more interim agreements, in which the state of war remains as it is, but a peace treaty, which, in accordance with well known international models, generally begins with the following sentence: The state of war between the two countries has come to an end. This is the difference; and it has great importance. It means the complete normalization of relations, including the establishment of diplomatic relations, economic and cultural relations, the ending of the economic boycott, free movement of people and goods. [indistinct heckling]

Security experts determine and confirm that we have achieved security conditions which are sufficient and satisfactory for the State of Israel through the setting of demilitarized zones, zones of thinning out of forces, early warning systems. It is, of course true that there is the problem of the airfields and in this regard a change occurred in the agreements as they were signed concerning the original peace program which we presented last December. We then proposed that, of the three airfields in Sinai--'Eytam, 'Ezyon and Ofira--two of them would be transferred to civil administration and one--the reference was to 'Ezyon--would remain in the hands of the Israeli Air Force even after the transition period. This time, with regard to those airfields, nothing helped and the Israeli delegation gave its agreement to transferring to Egyptian civil administration all three airfields established in Sinai. In contrast to this, we were given a promise that, with the help of our friends, the Americans, two airbases would be established in the Negev. From the strategic aspect, from the aspect of our security, whether southward or northwest, this makes practically no difference. The geographical distance between the existing airbases and those which will be established is nothing but a few dozen km and in our times, with supersonic planes, the difference in defense capability is practically nil. It was determined that we will not leave the existing airfields as long as there are no new, alternative, functioning airfields.

President as-Sadat and I agreed that, despite the fact that we committed ourselves in writing to reach the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel within 3 months, we would try to shorten the period of time to 2 months. Therefore, I can say today, and I have a complete commitment, since the matter depends on both sides, that it may be--there is hope--that by the end of the year the peace treaty between the two countries will be signed. [heckling]

I did indeed say that it is so important--I stated a fact. I would ask MK Shamir to permit me to continue. I hope he will not repeat the precedent. [laughter; applause]

The most painful matter concerns our settlements in Sinai, in the north and in the south. There have been those who have claimed that we gave them up even before President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in order to permit that visit. Mr Chairman, I am stating from the Knesset podium, with all the responsibility of remarks made from it, that this claim has no shadow of truth in it and we have written proof of this and I am even amazed that serious people, who have in the past fulfilled central national posts, permit themselves to spread such malicious slander. There are also those who claim that we did not fight for these settlements at the Camp David conference.

[Interruption--The conceding of the sovereignty over Sinai and the granting of the sovereignty to Egypt clearly meant that this was the removal of the settlements, except that you did not want to recognize this and you began selling plots in Yamit instead.]

I asked for no heckling and I would ask the former minister of police to permit me to continue speaking. [more interruptions]

[Chairman Shamir] Members of Knesset, I ask you, as far as possible, to refrain from heckling. [more heckling] Members of Knesset, MK Grupper, MK Grupper, you are constantly interrupting. [more heckling]

[Begin] Mr Chairman, members of Knesset.... [heckling] It is possible, it is also possible; heckling does not disturb me. Gentlemen, I understand that there are differences of opinion on this matter in all the parties today. Let us each respect one anothers' views. Afterward you will decide, each in accordance with his conscience. I am not hiding--I am not hiding--Mr Yigal Kohen, be kind enough to permit me to finish the sentence, please--each one will decide in accordance with his conscience in the decisive voting. In the meantime I ask you to allow me to explain: I am not hiding anything and I already got to this point at the beginning of my speech. Well--the incorrect report to the effect that the Israeli delegation did not fight for these settlements at Camp David: Were it possible, were it possible to ask President Carter, and also one of his main aides, just how the delegation of Israel fought for these settlements, you would receive the specific reply, but this is not the main point. [heckling] Have you stopped banging on the table, MK Shamir? That table, in my view, was intended for writing and not for banging. [heckling] I knew that there were differences of opinion within all the factions. What is this impatience? I have not forgotten anything, madam.

Well, I will say what I have to say simply. This is a very painful matter, and not only will I not hide my pain, I will express it in any language in which I can express a man's feelings. However, today--however, today, as I know, we are faced with the following alternative: to accept the decision as the cabinet brings it, via me, to the Knesset, or the negotiations on a peace treaty not beginning at all and all the things which were agreed on at Camp David being completely cancelled. This is the alternative. [heckling] Sir... [heckling] Professor Rom, when you... [heckling] ...you will say different things...for the moment I am authorized by the Knesset to fill this post and be kind enough to listen to me with patience and respect. This is the alternative: these are the two possibilities; there is no third and I declare here that, with a heavy and painful heart, but with a clear conscience, I will recommend choosing the possibility we chose yesterday at the cabinet session, for this is the road leading to peace, this is the supreme national interest, for my friends and colleagues, the settlers, too. So I am going to propose to the Knesset for decision and voting the following proposal, which is agreed by the Cabinet of Israel: The Knesset authorizes the Camp David agreements which were signed by the prime minister in the White House on 19 September 1978. If, in the negotiations over the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, all the problems are agreed upon which touch on this treaty, and the agreement takes the form of a written document, the Knesset authorizes the cabinet to remove the settlers from Sinai and to resettle them. The basic... [heckling] ...you will vote--we are proposing. [heckling]

[Chairman Shamir] MK Shelomo Hillel, Mr Deputy Prime Minister, we are holding a debate and the debate is for the expression of the views of the factions and the views of the members of the Knesset. I ask you to permit a quiet and orderly Knesset session speech. I ask the prime minister to continue with his remarks.

[Begin] I thank the chairman. The basic agreement, the framework agreement regarding Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, is our autonomy program as we proposed it last December. It is, indeed, true that these are our proposals. The military government, including its civilian administration, will be removed. The Arab inhabitants will themselves elect an administrative council. We will not intervene in the administration of their daily affairs. From the aspect of our national security, the main point of all is the presence of the IDF in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. [heckling] Listen to the end, listen with patience. In the original agreement, we wrote as follows: There will be a withdrawal, and in English, a withdrawal, of Israeli armed forces and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into security zones which will be detailed. In other words: we agreed to remove a certain number of our troops, while

the rest of the troops will be left in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The deployment will be done shortly and they, Israel's soldiers, and only they, will guard our national security. Our army will remain in Judaea and Samaria beyond the transition period. This is the basic change in all the deliberations which have taken place over the last 2 years and up to this very day. [heckling] Again, dear friends.... [heckling]

[Chairman Shamir] Members of Knesset, I request you to refrain from arguments between the Knesset benches. Can there be heckling? No exchanges of remarks between members of Knesset is possible. MK Shelomo Hillel, will you please keep order, please.

[Begin] We left no doubt and we announced that after the transition period of 5 years, when the decision on the problem of the sovereignty is put forward, we will demand our right to sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria and Gaza. If an agreement is achieved against the background of counterdemands, fine. If no agreement is achieved--the result will be that the arrangements for autonomy and the security of Israel will continue. Now, I want to draw the Knesset's attention... [heckling]

Mr Tawfiq Tubi, I have already read a great many PRAVDA articles, why should I listen to your remarks. I would prefer the voice of Moscow, but I have read articles in PRAVDA, I don't need you. I know what the position is.

I now want to emphasize what we prevented concerning this agreement, with regard to the previous proposals presented to us. One: There is not, nor will there be, any referendum in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We had, at the conference, to remind our friends that Meinetagen [British officer in Palestine who wrote a diary in which he maintained that Sinai was never Egyptian] writes in his memoirs that, in the twenties, it was suggested to Arthur James Balfour that a referendum be held on Eretz Yisra'el and the then British foreign minister replied: If there is a referendum on Eretz Yisra'el, it is correct that all the Jews throughout the world should participate in it. This proposal was struck and the authorization will be given by the elected of the inhabitants. Second: There is not, nor will there be, under any condition or any circumstances, a Palestinian state. Third:

[Heckling: It is impossible to make peace without a Palestinian state, just as no peace can be made by destroying the State of Israel.]

Members of Knesset, I ask for silence. Mr Wilner, I can say to you--I did not permit myself to say this to Mr Tawfiq Tubi--you should remember to whom [words indistinct] prophecy about building the temple. So please do not hurry to commit suicide.

[MK Wilner heckles about the agreement being built on sand]

Enough; enough heckling. You will take part in the debate. Enough, members of Knesset, I ask for silence. Third: The organization of murderers called the PLO [heckling] MK Tawfiq Zayyad... [heckling] and I want to tell you, the mayor of Nazareth in the State of Israel, I want to tell you that since the days of the Nazis there has never been such a barbaric organization, antihumane, as that called the PLO.... [heckling] MK Tawfiq Zayyad, I ask you to cease. I ask you to cease. [heckling]

[Knesset chairman] MK Tawfiq Tubi, do you want [words indistinct]. Do you want to vote in an orderly way? MK Tawfiq Tubi, MK Tawfiq Tubi, you know what heckling is, you know what heckling is and you know the difference between heckling and disturbances. I ask you not to disturb. Members of Knesset, I ask for silence. I ask the prime minister to continue his remarks.

[Begin] Of course [illegible]l continue. What else; I should stop? I repeat what I said, the organization of murderers called PLO is not an element in the negotiations, nor will it be and we heard from the President of the United States the correct comparison between it and the Nazis' organization, because this is an organization which not only adheres, as it were, to sacrificing the State of Israel--it will never gain this--but it has made the civilian population the sole target of its attacks. In the end revenge will be taken against it and even now a vendetta is going on between its sections and you know very well what has happened recently in Beirut. Learn a lesson from this and take care, gentlemen. You too, one of these days, may be the victims of this organization.

[illegible about PLO agreement to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip]

[illegible] Wilner--[heckling, arguments]

[Knesset Chairman] Members of Knesset, I request that you abstain from arguments on the [illegible] benches.

[illegible] MK Abramovitch, if [words indistinct] it is because of your neighborhood....

[illegible] question is always permissible, but in a quieter voice, so that I can hear.

[MK Moshe Shahal] I ask the prime minister to explain what was quoted today, in your [illegible] in NEWSWEEK, about your willingness to meet and sit down with PLO members if they are elected by the public.

[Begin] No such thing. I was asked a question, if someone from among the PLO supporters is elected, what would our attitude be to that person if he were elected to the administrative council and I said, if he is elected, he is elected, and then we will call him, if you behave correctly, then you will sit on this committee, but do not even imagine harming anyone in Israel and causing a breach of the peace. That was my reply and I stand by it.

[Violent heckling] That was my reply and I stand by it and if you have another reply, give it from the Knesset podium. [violent heckling]

[Knesset chairman] Members of the Knesset, members of the Knesset, I request that you cease the arguments and discussions among yourselves.

[Begin] I must explain other problems. The first is that of Jerusalem. One day it was suggested to us at the Camp David conference that the flag of an Arab country fly over the temple mount. We refused, we argued, and the flag was taken down before it was raised. On the last day of the conference we were presented with a draft letter which was due to be sent to me and to President as-Sadat regarding the status of Jerusalem. We told the U.S. delegation that if that letter remained valid and was sent to us, we would not sign any agreements, so that letter was cancelled. In its place, another letter was sent to us and I replied to it as was required. Mr President, I am honored to imform you that, on 28 June 1967, the Israeli House of Representatives [Bet Hanivharim] passed a law, as follows: The government is authorized by law to impose law, judgement and the administration of the state in every area of Eretz Yisra'el, as is determined by the law. On the basis of this law, the Cabinet of Israel issued an order, in July 1967, according to which Jerusalem is one city, can no longer be divided, is the capital of Israel. [heckling] Those letters, Mr Shamir, those letters--Mr Shamir--after all, you are a proud Jew and I want to say to you that President Carter wrote a letter to Mr as-Sadat, and President as-Sadat wrote a letter to Mr Carter, and what I wrote in the name of the State of Israel is what will stand. Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel, is indivisible for all the generations and for ever and ever. Did you understand that Hebrew? As a poet? [heckling]

The problem of the settlements was put forward. [heckling] I ask you not to argue concerning the addition of manpower. There is no problem for the existing settlements. We will even reinforce them, in Judaea and in Samaria and on the Golan Heights, with more families. With regard to Judaea and Samaria and Gaza I had no doubt about it, I gave a promise to President Carter that, during the period of negotiations for the sake of signing a peace treaty, and today we have negotiations only with Egypt, that is, during the assumed period of time of 3 months we will not bring in new civilian settlements. This matter arouses misunderstanding and so, despite the fact that I had no doubt regarding the substance of that promise, and that alone, on Saturday evening we examined, with the foreign minister and the defense minister and Professor Baraq, all the notes and the documents and it was proved basically that that was how it was and in this spirit I am this week going to write the suitable letter to President Carter.

As for the terms, I was given confirmation by President Carter regarding the terms as they appear in the original version, the English one, regarding our understanding, that is: President Carter writes to me. I hereby confirm that you informed me of the above as follows: In every document of the agreed framework, the terms Palestinians or the Palestinian people are interpreted and understood and will be interpreted and understood by you as the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el and in every paragraph where the term West Bank appears, it is understood and will be understood by the Government of Israel as Judaea and Samaria.

Gentlemen, Members of Knesset, I request...

[Question about the legal rights of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el]

Everyone uses his own language and our language is Eretz Yisra'el and Judaea and Samaria. This is what we agreed on and this is how it will be in the future. Mr Chairman, members of Knesset, I request that you cease the conversations among yourselves. We did not, either at Camp David, or at the White House, sign any secret document. All the documents have been published and the additional letter that I will send to President Carter will also be published. All the material is laid before you. I understand, Mr Chairman, that today there is a period in Israel of what may be called birth pangs. This is a free nation. It has differing views within it. This is a democratic parliament. It has different parties in it. Even within the parties there are differences of opinion. This is one of the greatest events of our generation, after 30 years of five wars, bloodshed, bereavement and making of orphans, we have arrived at the moment when it is given to us, with very hard sacrifices, to sign a peace treaty with an Arab nation numbering more than 40 million people, and afterward there is hope, foundations for belief, that the day is not far off when we will sign on a peace treaty with our other neighbors. This is a turn which may be called, without any doubt, a historic one. In our hearts there is a prayer: May we succeed in this, one after the other, and gain the peace which is longed for by all, without any factional difference. We made all the efforts and, as I said, we also made the sacrifices, for that day to come.

We have laid the documents before you. Everyone will think his own thoughts, will ask his conscience and will vote in accordance with his evaluation. Thus I call on all the members of Knesset, without concern for faction. I only ask that all the members of Knesset, the representatives of a great nation which has suffered greatly and fought a great deal, sacrificed much: Know how to evaluate the moral significance of this turn. There have been 30 years during which we have hoped for the moment when we would sit down for direct discussion on the signing of a peace treaty, on complete normalization of relations, on the cessation of the wars, on the guaranteeing of life not only for our generation, but also for our children and their children's children after us. This is the moment. It is a great moment. I thank the Knesset for listening. Let there be the will that, with the aid of the Lord, very soon we will come to the great moment of signing the peace treaty.

Peres Knesset Speech

TA251326Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 0908 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres speech to Knesset in response to prime minister's address at opening of Knesset debate on the Camp David accords--live]

[Text] Knesset Chairman, honorable Knesset, yesterday, at the meeting of the Labor Party center, a woman, not young and dressed in black, one of the greatest women in the history of the redeemed Israel, a woman who lost her two sons, a pioneer in all her ways, the mother of sons, Rivqa Guber, took the podium. She approached the loudspeaker directly and without a piece of paper in her hands. She said, among other things: Dear colleagues, it is hard for me and I did not intend to speak since I have just completed the 7 days of mourning following the death of my husband. I have the impression that you will hear my words although I have nobody I can send, either to the Rafah approaches, nor to Di-Zahav, I have nobody to send.... [interjection by MK Me'ir Kohen who says that there are many bereaved people and Peres should not use this example.]

Stop for a minute. You do not know what I am saying, fool. I have nobody...[interjection] I have no one to send since my sons were lost and they left no grandchildren. I had nobody I could send but the surprising thing now is the wished-for peace. If we allow this hour to be lost to us--this was what this great woman said--we will not be able to justify ourselves. Peace requires risks just as war. She added: [We need this] in order that the new year may be good, that a booth of peace may be built, that green may prevail on both sides of the border, that we may live with our neighbors without fears and that this be not a dream. This is a great Zionist truth. We have hoped to realize Zionism in peaceful conditions and not in war confrontations.

Peace, Knesset members, was lacking on the Arab side, not on the Jewish side. It is the side that brought about the wars and had we not won them, albeit at a heavy price, the Jewish side would not have existed. In the great historic argument held between Professor Magnes and David Ben-Gurion, David Ben-Gurion told Magnes: The difference between us is that you believe that peace will bring the creation of a state, while I believe that the creation of a state will lead to peace. We have indeed established a state strong enough to bring peace. This is the first time there are two sides for peace. The State of Israel, the only Jewish state in the world, and the Egyptian republic, the biggest of the Arab countries. Mr Chairman, I unhesitatingly congratulate the Israeli Government and the Israeli prime minister on the difficult and awesome but also vital decision they have made to march toward peace in return for a price that seemed impossible for the present government, to free themselves from their commitments, conventions and ideology and progress toward a new direction in the history of the Middle East.

I want to say now why I have told you this. I did not make a demagogic use of Rivga's words. It is you who should apologize. I want to express my full appreciation for President as-Sadat who, supported by his people and in the face of a loud and threatening refusal in the Arab world, came to Jerusalem, sought peace, proposed peace and found compliance for peace.

I am sure that the house is united in its gratitude to the U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, who showed resourcefulness, a sense of timing and adherence to the goal. He spared no time or effort and stretched his prestige like a bridge over some of the wide gaps created on the way to peace. Peace is born in labor and its progress is made through difficult decisions. Errors were accumulated during the conduct of the peace negotiations which are today loaded with charges that are liable to dissolve and disintegrate things that are vital to the State of Israel and its security. The peace agreement submitted to us today constitutes a double price: the price of peace itself which is inevitable; and the price of the errors made on the way, errors which could have been avoided.

In the course of the negotiations the government began settlements in the Sinai and in the heart of the West Bank. Settlements in this period in these places caused much damage to the State of Israel and the government had to stop them after the damage had already been done. The government first refused, later hesitated, to apply Resolution 242 to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Finally, it agreed, it surely agreed, again, after the damage had already been done. It estimated that As-Sadat would not move toward peace on his own. He did move and he also gained credit for that. The government hesitated about signing a general declaration of principles along the lines of the Vienna document, and instead signed detailed and dangerous principles that were not in the first draft declaration. It refused to answer the two U.S. questions. Finally it gave many answers, more far-reaching than it was initially requested to do. It did not believe that As-Sadat would agree to an IDF presence in the West Bank and again erred and was forced to agree to a partial presence. We have paid a heavy price for these mistakes.

Mr Chairman, this cabinet conceded all of Sinai on one clear Jerusalem evening. Afterward it held negotiations characterized by regrets, but this did not help. In Sinai, the cabinet shattered Israel's credibility. We stood on a defensible border, with settlements and airfields.

Mr Prime Minister, it is also worth your listening, but I must tell you that I was surprised by your reasoning today on the matter of the airfields. Since when do dozens of kilometers not count today? Previously you stood on this podium and you explained, concerning Judea and Samaria, that every kilometer and every gun matters. When you conceded, the territory changed, the guns have changed, the planes have arrived--really, on this matter you must be consistent. We gave up territorial continuity from Sharm ash-Shaykh to Elat.

Members of Knesset, there are those who say that this program recalls the Rogers plan. Regarding Sinai, it is worse than the Rogers plan, because, in the Rogers plan there was room to conduct negotiations over the future of Sharm ash-Shaykh. We have given up a land barrier in the Yamit Strip. This is what we told the settlers. This is what we said, Mr Prime Minister, to one another--you called this a national consensus--this is what we said to everyone, we said to one another--but to As-Sadat we said something else. The national consensus sank in the sands of Sinai.

We have returned to the 1967 borders. We have given up a defensible border, airfields--and, in my view, regarding airfields, we could have reached a better agreement--and I am saying this after a talk with As-Sadat.

Now the cabinet says something which surprised me--I am turning to the foreign minister in this case--[it said] that the United Nations will be a buffer. If the United Nations is a buffer, this is also a precedent for the matter of the Golan Heights. Why say this? Let us remember that the model of Sinai will serve as a precedent and foundations for negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, for in the chapter on the principles accompanying the Camp David agreements, there is more than a hint of the fact that the agreement with Egypt will represent a signpost for the perplexed. [indistinct interjection] In a minute you will hear.

First of all, Moshe, I do not deny, neither to myself nor to others, on what I am voting and I say this frankly to both the house and the nation, not detracting from the gravity of the matter by an iota: we are standing today with the broken truth of yesterday and the grave truth of today, with the broken truth and the grave truth, facing the people of the Yamit strip, people who were the nation's envoys, who have remained the envoys of the people, they went because they were sent; they were sent with the agreement of us all. They made a desert bloom and created a security zone; pioneers with an honest conviction.

[Unidentified MK] Not only the Yamit District, but also the Straits of Tiran.

[Peres] Here they are, coming from Russia and from America, immigrants from the Arab countries and those born in this country. They and their children who have grown and their fields which grew and their homes which they built, they woke up one morning to discover that they were no longer pioneers in the camp, but, as it were, an obstacle to peace. Their mission was suddenly cut off and this after we told As-Sadat that if the soil is sacred to him, for us the settlements are sacred. This is what I said with everyone's agreement. Today, at their side stand the people of the Jordan Rift Valley and the people from the Golan Heights. Mr Chairman, can the Knesset give them an answer that contains honor, security and credibility?

No less grave and even more encompassing in its gravity is the situation concerning the future of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. It now emerges that the autonomy is not coming instead of 242, but in addition to it and that the decisions and principles of Resolution 242 will apply to all the territories. A joint committee, with Jordan and Israel and the elected representatives of the territories, will have to decide, on the basis of 22, [as heard] and I am quoting from the document, the siting of the borders. We will yet have to stake out borders, together with the security arrangements. Autonomy for security needs but, in fact it is a withdrawal in effect, and in the not too distant future.

The autonomy, in its midday editions--and if Jordan joints in, there will also be an evening edition--has turned into a temporary program, not into a permanent partial agreement, Mr Prime Minister, but into a passing partial agreement. According to this agreement, the military government will be abolished. The inhabitants will be given authority, authority of self-rule and full autonomy. You can say this is not a Palestinian state. This is a semantic game. [It has] all the indicators of a government without any exceptions, apart from the presence of the IDF, and this, too, Mr Prime Minister--and you must explain this to the Knesset--according to the best of my knowledge, is restricted in time.

I want to say on what I base my remarks: In President Carter's announcement, in the White House, in your presence and in the presence of As-Sadat, the president said: "The framework document proposes a 5-year transitional period." He then specified that within this period there will be a withdrawal of the military government and added: "It also provides for Israeli forces to remain in specified locations during this period, to protect Israel, Israeli security." It is written "during this period" that forces--this is a document by the President of the United States, which we heard over the television, in your presence, we heard no reservations. I beg your pardon? [heckling] I am reading what the President said, I have not seen any other documents. [indistinct remarks from Begin]

The authority will decide how day-to-day matters will be administered in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; true, in accordance with the principles of the framework agreement, but it will decide--so what does a referendum matter? Again, it is a play on words. It will determine, by its elected representatives, the future of the West Bank and Gaza. It will be the final authority which will decide what the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is. I do not expect that the cabinet [heckling]....an independent, elected authority, with administration, with a police, and, particularly, with aspirations in the heart, and the possibility of declaring them from a formal podium, both with regard to the continued IDF presence and regarding the possibility of self-determination. I do not expect, members of Knesset, that this authority will beg the IDF to remain in the territories and declare that it prefers the link with Israel to self-determination.

However, the main point is that this Cabinet of Israel, the one which, as it were, adheres to principles, is the one that declared that it agrees in advance, today, in public, that the results of the negotiations should include recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its just needs. Thus a historic argument within our midst has ended. We have recognized the existence of a Palestinian people. It is not difficult to guess the legitimate rights of a people constituting a decisive majority in the land on which it lives. It is true that, in the exchange of letters, the prime minister expressed reservations, saying that the intention was with regard to the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza only. The reply he received from Carter says--now I know, Mr Prime Minister, what your views are. But, in fact, you too have two views: one view on which you signed a public and open document, which recognizes a Palestinian people with its legitimate rights, and a second view about which you whispered in a private letter to President Carter. Mr Chairman, it is impossible to settle a people in a post box, and what will appear as natural justice will overcome the textual justice.

In this argument, the Labor Party had a position. We said that a compromise must be made, MK Moshe Shamir. We said that there was a Palestinian problem. We are not ignoring it. We said that the problem of its identity, the identity of the Palestinians, must be solved in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. We warned this cabinet that the alternative to our proposal is a Palestinian entity.

The cabinet... [heckling by Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Horowitz] Yiga'el, you are not a member of my party, listen to the end, you will be given a reply. How does this fit in with the fact that you are sitting there?

From where you are sitting you do not have to ask. Change your chair and then if you ask, you will be given an answer. The cabinet amused itself--after all, this is not a debate on inflation, on 3 billion Israeli pounds; here 2 days will not be enough, Yiga'el--the cabinet amused itself with formulations on sovereignty and, in my view, it lost the chance for security borders. It lost; the nation of Israel lost; peace lost. For the Palestinian people--including this time, not only the inhabitants of the territories, the Palestinian people, as the Israeli Cabinet recognizes them, including those who were uprooted from the territories since 1967--a Palestinian people with the right to return.

The consolation, as it were, that we will be able to purchase land is merely verbal consolation, because the right to purchase is connected with the willingness to sell, which does not exist. The IDF will remain in the area at certain points but the demand to evacuate it in 5 years--or earlier or later--is certain to come. Ultimately, the continued presence of the IDF will depend on the members of the committee who will determine a final settlement for the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Of course, in 5 years we will be able to demand sovereignty over the whole of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We will be able to, why not? Who will respond to this? Who will agree to this? Who will support it? Who will demand it? Will you change your mind tomorrow on what you agreed upon today?

This plan cannot arouse triumphal cries in one's heart. It is this cabinet alone which is responsible for it. Israel was forced to accept--and it would be wise for the cabinet to say this explicitly--that the alternative and by this I am replying to you, Yiga'el, was the collapse of the Camp David conference--a collapse which I opposed, and I am saying this from the podium. This collapse would have brought about Israel's isolation--our people have limitations--I will not mention them--a collapse which would have harmed the United States and our relations with it, a collapse which would have been harmful to As-Sadat, the first Arab leader who came to speak with us openly about peace. It would have endangered the chance for peace in this generation and also, perhaps, in generations to come.

Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset, the opposition has never had a better opportunity to be an opposition than today. It is not difficult to guess what Menahem Begin would have said today were he to have stood here in my stead as leader of the opposition. Ge'ula Kohen did this in his place, even though not in my place. We have not done this, because we are a movement that has responsibility toward our people. We have not made life easy for ourselves and, when we saw the size of the danger together with the size of the chance, we have chosen to be supporters of peace--the sole existing possibility for peace...

[Unidentified MK] Support as a result of U.S. pressure.

...and we will not be an opposition out for easy political gain.

Moreover, in expressing our support for the Camp David agreements today we are also--I know--indirectly accepting all of the cabinet's previous mistakes, against which we issued several warnings sufficiently ahead of time. We take upon ourselves also the burden of difficulties that can be expected in the future--this is not the end of the road--and we are doing this, MK Yiga'el Horowitz, without seeking a place next to the cabinet table. [indistinct interjection]

Democracy does not mean splitting the people but the freedom to represent correct opinion, and sometimes the correct opinion lies with the opposition; however, the opposition does not have a majority.

The expected burden is great because if Jordan joins the negotiations it is clear that it will open with new conditions. If Jordan does not join and Egypt enters the negotiations it will make things hard for itself on the Egyptian clause without making things easy for us on the Jordanian clause. If neither of them join, a Palestinian entity will be consolidated. If nothing happens the problem will remain open with which the whole world will be busy and which will place a burden on peace, will commit the United States, will strengthen the rejectionist front and might even bring about a renewed Geneva conference, as President Carter's national security adviser said yesterday.

If Syria follows Egypt it will demand that the model of Sinai be applied to the Golan Heights. It is not difficult to guess who will support these demands.

[Unidentified MK] No, we will not support this.

[Peres] If Syria does not follow, Amnon, we, the Alinement brought up a different plan. Our plan did not have a majority and was not accepted, I cannot make a choice which is imaginary...

[Unidentified MK] You want to walk between the raindrops, but this is impossible!

[Peres] The rejectionist front will seek ways to express its dissatisfaction, almost certainly with threats and with terror. Calm in the south will be accompanied by tension in the north.

Members of the Knesset, the issue of multiplying the settlements is not simply a matter of interpreting the agreement. Under the conditions that have been created, it is hard to see how the cabinet will continue in its policy of many Allon Mores, and the policy of removing Allon Mores is not so pleasant, as this cabinet has learned after it believed that it would not have to do this.

We still face the serious issue of Jerusalem. In the past 11 years a dynamic man has headed the city--Teddy Kollek--who has shown a development drive and wisdom in relations. This city and its leader should today get comprehensive and maximum aid so that reality...

[Unidentified MK] If you win on the issue of Jerusalem, you would divide it!

[Peres] ...overcomes the hard and fast things set out in the exchange of letters on the future of the city. Mr Prime Minister, before you went to Camp David you made a speech on television. You settled partisan accounts. I am not settling partisan accounts. Teddy Kollek will in any case be elected. What he should be given is the necessary aid.

[Unidentified correspondent] Of course, the arguments here on the floor center on election propaganda Shim'on Peres is conducting for (?Kollek).

[Peres] Members of Knesset, after having defined most openly the balance of this policy which we were not responsible for shaping but in which we have found ourselves--and there is no alternative--one must also take a look at the chance that lies in the delivery room itself.

Peace, which is at the gate, a peace which has yet to be born but is in the process of being formed; for the time being it is an only child, but it is being threatened by enemy brothers. Even when it is born it is expected to have childhood illnesses and an unknown lifespan. It might be capricious, and it might cause sleepless nights. But it is a creature that might come to life in our world and change it.

We have been accustomed to being concerned for Israel's security. We must not shirk this concern but perhaps, for the first time, Jewish and Arab parents, the ancient Egyptian people and the weary Jewish people will taste a flavor we have not known before--slogans of a prophetic vision will become men and women in a new reality.

It is possible that instead of barbed wire in the Middle East, a Middle East with open borders will come into existence; in deserts which were fields of death the wheat fields of our neighbors might grow. We might be able to construct a second story of a regional economy on our national economy. A region with a network of irrigation pipes to put an end to ancient deserts; [indistinct interjections] roads which will reveal to everybody the antiquities from our people's heritage; a scenery that gave birth to toil, courage and vision; seas that will provide a living for fishermen and will serve holidaymakers; an economy that might obtain energy from the sun's rays and from the bottom of the sea.

We call upon all peoples of the Middle East to achieve peace within the region and between all countries; peace that will enable us to conduct the only just war--against poverty, against sickness, against the wilderness, against ignorance, against corruption and against discrimination. Peace provides new opportunities for the Jewish people. This is a peace the achievement of which we owe to those who fell in Israel's battles, the hope for its realization depending on renewed immigration to Eretz Yisra'el.

The Alinement--the Labor Party and MAPAM--will take part in this energetic campaign for peace. Until it comes and when it comes we will also devote some of our efforts to changing the image of Israel so that it not be a country that lives off external support and is thus dependent on the charity of foreigners, but a country that lives from its own toil.

Let us not be a people of the stock exchange but a people of work; a society that only sits in deck chairs at the seaside, dotted with houses of entertainment and casinos, but a society that cultivates its fields, activates its industries and provides for itself; a country without masters and without servants, a country that does not live from hand to mouth but from tomorrow to today, from the society-at-large to the individual. Zionism...

[Interjection by Likud MK Olmert] Mr Peres, on behalf of which party are you speaking when you say this?

[Peres] Zionism is not a movement to change one's place of residence, but to change the content of a people. The Labor Party--a movement to build a hard-working people that knows how to work and create, to teach and believe...

[Knesset Speaker Shamir] Knesset members, I am asking for quiet.

[Peres] ...a people that knows who to defend itself and stretch the hand of peace to its neighbors. We will build the Negev to look like the Jordan Valley and the Jezreel Valley--not a Negev of farmers and paid laborers. We will work to settle the Galilee...

[Likud MK Ehud Olmert] Nevertheless, on behalf of which party do you come with this vision?

[Peres] Ehud, did you personally build the country? We will build a defensible border built on depth and covered in greenery, because the seed of peace, in the words of Zechariah, is that the vine will bear its fruit. Moreover, it will be a peace that will enable the settlement of the remnants of the people.

Mr Speaker, honorable members of Knesset, we have to face the dangers with open eyes--I have described them without any embellishment--the series of mistakes--with an aching heart but with the knowledge that this cannot be changed, and face the hope of peace with decisive Jewish faith. In the end this is what we are all striving for.

[Shamir] Thank you.

[MK Dov Shilansky] I still do not know how you voted?

HOROWITZ REMAINS OPPOSED TO CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

TA251513Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] La'am is inside, but opposed. Correspondent Zevi Lidar talked about this with the commerce and industry minister, Yiga'el Horowitz. [begin recording]

[Question] Minister Horowitz, are you able to vote for the proposal brought by the prime minister before the Knesset today?

[Answer] No, I will not vote for it. There was a meeting of the La'am Party executive yesterday in which a decision was taken to vote against this proposal brought by Mr Begin. Since there are many sharp expressions now--this subject causes great pain to us all; I imagine that the parties and the people themselves are divided on this matter--I want to seize the opportunity to say a word against the sharp and ugly expressions leveled at Mr Begin, Mr Dayan and Mr Weizman. They are called traitors and other serious names by well-known demonstrators. I want to protest against this. I am convinced that the delegation has done its best in Camp David, according to its conception and understanding, to bring about the best possible results from the point of view of the national interest.

[Question] Why do you not support them then?

[Answer] Although I am sure they have done their best, I do not support their position. However, it's a long way from lack of support to grave condemnations.

[Question] Why lack of support, if you say they have done their best?

[Answer] I say that I would have under no circumstances accepted the proposal to remove the settlements in Judaea and Samaria and I would have done everything to guarantee massive settlement in Judaea and Samaria and not to leave the issue open and vague. At any rate, I am convinced that they do not deserve any condemnations.

[Question] The prime minister said he will view a vote against the agreements as a no-confidence vote and will resign if the majority of the Knesset votes against him. Your vote against him, against his proposal means no confidence in the prime minister. Are you going to reach the conclusions called for by this?

[Answer] No. I was happy to hear that Begin said that every Knesset member will vote according to his conscience. I think that this is the way the Likud faction should act. Although we have the decision of the La'am Party executive, I am convinced that our faction members will vote according to their conscience.

[Question] Will you later be able to continue sitting in a government that removes settlements?

[Answer] I want to tell you first that the moves are not operational yet and the negotiations are still going to be complicated and difficult. I do not see any reason for resigning from the cabinet at this moment, unless Mr Begin says that it is impossible for us to participate in this government after our vote. This matter is in his hands. I, at any rate, will not vote for the cabinet's position.

[Question] Will you continue to see yourselves as part of the Likud?

[Answer] I think so. At any rate, this subject is not on the agenda at the moment.

[Question] What are your next steps?

[Answer] Nothing; to do everything that needs to be done both in the ministry and in the party and to always say only what I think. [end recording]

PO'ALEY AGUDAT YISRA'EL AGAINST AGREEMENTS

TA252145Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] The Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el Knesset representative, Rabbi Kalman Kahana, will vote against the approval of the Camp David agreements. The Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el members reached this decision because of the security and settlement aspects. They most fear that the principle of removing settlements will be applied to Judaea and Samaria in the future.

BEGIN 'WILL RESIGN' IF KNESSET DISAPPROVES ACCORDS

TA251310Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister said again that if the Knesset does not endorse the Camp David agreements, he will go to the president of the state and submit his resignation. Mr Begin said this in his talk with the MAFDAL heads today.

Correspondent Zevi Lidar learned that the prime minister insists that coalition discipline will be imposed on the vote on the agreements. Our correspondent says that there is opposition in the Likud faction to the imposition of coalition discipline and that Dov Shilansky and Kohen-Orgad are among the opponents' leaders. Our correspondent mentions that the Likud La'am Faction decided today to grant its members freedom of voting. The La'am executive has also recommended voting against the agreements. La'am Mk Yig'al Kohen said that each of his colleagues will be able to vote against, and that if the prime minister wants to he can draw conclusions from this. Yig'al Kohen said that if it transpires that the law forbids the ministers to vote against the agreements, they will be able to abstain.

DAYAN SPEAKS TO MAFDAL ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE

TA252057Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan says that perhaps the negotiations with Egypt will not reach an end at all, because Jordan and the Palestinians may not join the negotiations, in which case Egypt may refuse to go to a separate arrangement without them. The foreign minister was speaking tonight to the MAFDAL executive in Tel Aviv.

He said that As-Sadat is indeed prepared to represent Jordan and the Palestinians in the negotiations on the future of Judaea and Samaria, but that he sees many difficulties in that. Our correspondent on party affairs, Dan Raviv, reports on the meeting between the foreign minister and the MAFDAL executive. [begin videotape]

Moshe Dayan came to the MAFDAL executive several hours before it is expected to decide on its position with respect to the peace agreement and the removal of the settlements in the Rafah approaches. With a frozen face, he--as well as the MAFDAL minister--heard harsh words voiced by the representatives of settlements in the Gaza Strip, the Rafah approaches and the Golan Heights. At the center of the foreign minister's words was the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan.

[Dayan] There was no demand whatsoever, neither to remove settlements--there was no talk at all on the Golan Heights--from Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, but the reference is not to removal or to a freeze, that is, a freeze which means stopping the growth--but to say more than that, there was talk also about the right to purchase lands by Jews and build a house, and this is according to the proposal which is not the one most acceptable to us. But there was no talk whatsoever on removal of settlements from these areas. One can say: Today you leave this place, tomorrow they will leave that place, too. One can say anything. But this is not what is discussed.

I can foresee many difficulties until we really see a signed peace treaty. Jordan is not joining, it refuses to join, and I do not know if the representatives of the Palestinian Arabs will come if Jordan does not come, and there are so many basic questions still left in the negotiations that is very doubtful, and no one can say for sure, that we shall reach an agreement with them on all these questions. It may be that nothing will come out of this whole business, because Jordan will not come and then the representatives of the Palestinian Arabs will not want to come, and with respect to various questions still remaining we will then not reach an agreement on them, and Egypt will not want to make a separate agreement only on the Sinai--and it said that it does not want to make a separate agreement--perhaps if we agree on all these things and these negotiations begin, they might not reach their end.

[Raviv] This afternoon, the MAFDAL leaders met with the prime minister, but the way they will vote has not yet been determined. This evening, in a heavy and tense atmosphere, they are hearing the reactions of the executive members. Tomorrow the party center will convene for a summing up discussion which will determine how the 12 MAFDAL Knessset members will vote. [end videotape]

MINISTER BURG SPEAKS AT MAFDAL MEETING

TA252102Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg said that the prime minister promised him that there will be a vast settlement enterprise to replace the Sinai settlements which will be evacuated.

As for Judaea and Samaria, he said that the important achievements of the Camp David summit agreement are that the IDF will remain on the hilltops and in the Jordan River Valley and that Jerusalem will be united.

Dr Burg was speaking at the MAFDAL executive meeting, within the framework of the political debate on the proposal laid on the Knesset's table.

The interior minister pointed out the serious dangers still facing us if the Knesset rejects the cabinet's decision. It is better to sit with Egypt face-to-face than to sit with all the Arab countries together at the Geneva conference--with the Soviets and the UN secretary general giving the tone.

The MAFDAL Central Committee has been called for a meeting tomorrow noon to decide on the cabinet's decision and the way the faction will vote.

MINISTER HAMMER TO RESIGN AFTER AGREEMENT VOTE

TA260733Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 26 Sep 78 p 1 TA

[By Sha'ul Schiff]

[Text] Minister of Education and Culture Zevulun Hammer has told his confidants that he will support the cabinet decision endorsing the Camp David agreements and immediately afterwards he will resign from the government.

The minister's reason for resigning from the government is his desire that not even one settler entertain the thought that he decided to support the peace agreement in order to hold onto his cabinet seat. He also said that he does not want anyone to say, "Look, they are evacuating the settlers from the settlements while he is sitting comfortably in his seat and not evacuating it."

It appears that one of the reasons for Minister Hammer's intention to resign lies in his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the prime minister, the defense minister and the foreign minister maneuvered the government into a situation in which it was unable to appeal their decision and had come with faits accomplis.

BEGIN DEMANDS COALITION DISCIPLINE IN KNESSET VOTE

TA251852Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The prime minister views the vote on the Camp David agreements as a subject that requires coalition discipline and demands that all members of the coalition support the government's position during the Knesset vote. This was learned yesterday from authoritative partisan sources.

The change in the prime minister's position stems from his agreement to bring to the Knesset for a vote both the framework agreements and the question of the Sinai settlements as a single unit. The prime minister originally intended to separate the two votes and accordingly he distinguished between the manner of coalition support for them: while demanding total support of all coalition factions for the Camp David agreements he proposed a vote without party discipline on the question of the future of the northern Sinai settlements.

However, since reservations were made about the voting, the prime minister agreed to unite the two subjects and to propose to the Knesset that it decide in only one vote on both the Camp David agreements and the future of the settlements. Because of this he now views the question of coalition support of the agreements (and the removal of the settlements) as a matter requiring coalition discipline.

The above-mentioned development may complicate the procedure of approving the agreements and perhaps even cause tremors in the coalition. It is not only that the La'am faction rejects the agreements but also that the position of the MAFDAL faction is not consolidated. The three MAFDAL ministers and the head of the MAFDAL Knesset faction, Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, will meet with the prime minister today and present him with a few conditions for guaranteeing the faction's support of the agreements.

The MAFDAL primarily and above all demands that it be guaranteed that the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria will not be included within the boundaries of the autonomy to be established in Judaea and Samaria. The MAFDAL also demands reliable guarantees that the removal of the Sinai settlements does not become a precedent that will also apply to the Golan Heights and Judaea and Samaria in due course.

Senior sources in the MAFDAL yesterday expressed great indignation over how the negotiations in Camp David were conducted. These sources said that one cannot put up with a method whereby three cabinet members determine such far-reaching facts and retroactively come to ask for the cabinet's approval. The sources claimed that this is not the first time that such a thing has been done, mentioning for example the formulation of the autonomy plan.

It has been learned that the cabinet may be convened for another meeting this week in order to hear further explanations about the Camp David agreements. The prime minister attaches supreme importance to a quick conclusion of the process of endorsing the agreements.

COALITION DISCIPLINE TO BE DISCUSSED BY LIKUD

TA260720Z Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Today fruitful party activity is expected in connection with preparations for the end of the political debate in the Knesset. The main event today is the Likud faction's meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. At that meeting it will also be decided whether coalition discipline will be imposed on the Likud members. Knesset correspondent Zevi Lidar reports on today's expected meeting:

The Likud faction's meeting with the prime minister is described as an explanatory meeting. The faction members have been asked to prepare questions by today, which will be presented to Mr Begin in writing, and the prime minister will reply to them. There will not, then, be room for statements by the faction members themselves, despite the fact that it may be assumed that those opposed to the agreements signed at Camp David will not hesitate to express their views.

At the end of the explanatory session, the faction will be asked by the chairman, MK Avraham Sharir, to decide on the question which has been very much occupying the Likud members over these last few days: whether coalition discipline will be imposed on them. The prime minister yesterday explained his view on this issue, when he told the MAFDAL heads who had consulted with him that he is demanding coalition discipline. Later it was made plain that Mr Begin will not try to lay down the law to people in the coalition such as Geula Cohen, Yuval Ne'eman or Yitzhak Shamir. [illegible] agreements is already clear and known. However, this demand for coalition discipline is not acceptable to several Likud members who are not included in this category. Among them are several members of the Herut Movement, such as Dov Shilansky, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, Prof Yosef Ron and others.

These latter regard this issue, and particularly the question of the removal of the settlements in Sinai, as a national question requiring a personal decision of conscience by each and every member of the faction.

The members of the La'am division in the Likud also strongly oppose the imposition of coalition discipline. Members of the division who met in the Knesset yesterday decided on granting freedom of voting to their members and the division's coordinator, MK Yig'al Kohen, said that they would not accept what the faction said. [begin recording]

[Kohen] We, in any event, have left freedom of voting to all the members of the division, including the ministers and each one will vote according to his conscience. If the prime minister wants, as a result of this, to draw conclusions, that is his right. We are not in favor of disbanding the coalition. We will, however, act in accordance with our consciences since the question, as far as we are concerned, is one of principle and of conscience, of prime importance.

[Lidar] What will happen with your ministers? Will they vote against?

[Kohen] I do not know. I do know that the ministers will not vote in favor, as has already been made clear; I do not know how they will act, but if the prime minister demands that they draw conclusions then, of course, the whole division, in that case, will stand behind the ministers.

[Lidar] That is, do you expect them to abstain?

[Kohen] I expect that if, indeed, in accordance with the law, the coalition discipline demands that it is impossible to vote against cabinet decisions, it is my evaluation that they will abstain. [end recording]

There is no doubt that the question of coalition discipline will cause a storm today in the Likud faction and if this is decided on, shocks are expected in the coalition and within the Likud itself after the voting. The chairman of the Likud faction, Avraham Sharir, wants to prevent such shocks. A crisis with La'am would, in his view, be something which could not be graver from the Likud viewpoint and therefore he intends to hold intensive contacts today with the La'am heads in order to try to smooth out the difficulties.

WEIZMAN ROLE IN REMOVING HAWWARAH SETTLERS REPORTED

TA251620Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Sep 78 p 4 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] A few hours before the evacuation of the Hawwarah settlers some of the cabinet ministers demanded of Professor Yadin that he convene the cabinet for a special session with the aim of preventing clashes between the IDF soldiers and the settlers. The demand to convene the cabinet came from ministers who objected to the forceful evacuation of the settlers and raised proposals of their own for handling the situation. Among other things they raised the possibility of allowing certain elements to conduct last-minute negotiations in the name of the government with the settlers. Another proposal was not to give the IDF the task of evacuation. This proposal relied on remarks made by the prime minister on a different occasion when he rejected the possibility of using IDF soldiers for removing settlers.

On the morning of the evacuation the demand was addressed to Deputy Prime Minister Yadin and it also seemed that Yadin was ready to convene the cabinet. However, according to the sources that reported this, Yadin retreated after holding a talk with the defense minister.

According to them, the defense minister was firm on carrying out the cabinet's decision and even made it clear to the deputy prime minister that everything is set for the operation. The minister rejected any possibility of negotiations with the settlers and even said that he does not see any reason for a repeated discussion of the matter. After the talk which, according to Weizman's confidants, did not include any threat of resignation, Yadin rejected the idea of convening the cabinet again.

It is worth mentioning that that morning the defense minister canceled the proposal made by the chief of staff to the settlers to voluntarily leave the site and move to an adjacent military base. The position of the chief of staff, who wanted to prevent a clash between the IDF and the settlers, was presented at his own initiative but was acceptable to several cabinet ministers who wanted to raise it as a solution at the cabinet if the cabinet were indeed convened.

GUSH EMUNIM, SETTLERS DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM

TA2515l7Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] About 1,000 Gush Emunim members and residents of settlements in the territories are now demonstrating in the parking lot of the Jerusalem convention center. They arrived in tractor convoys, having made their way to the capital along various routes.

Among the slogans written on posters which the demonstrators are carrying the one saying: Today the Yamit District; tomorrow Jerusalem, stands out. Our correspondents report that several Knesset members are also among the demonstrators.

PROTEST RALLY IN YAMIT, MORE ON NEW SETTLEMENTS

TA251148Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Sep 78 TA

[Text] A protest rally against the Camp David agreements was held in the town of Yamit this morning. About 500 inhabitants and representatives from other settlements participated. A short while ago the participants in the rally left for the settlements of Peri'el and Talmey Yosef in the Yamit district in order to take part in the ceremony of settling the places. The ceremony is going to be held despite the objection of the Zionist Federation Settlement Department.

In the rally in Yamit the secretary of the Moshavim Movement, Arye Nahamqin said that the movement has decided to struggle against the removal of the settlements from the Yamit District. Yosi Mas, the head of the Yamit Action Committee, said that the prime minister has broken his promises to all residents of the district. Yehuda Har'el, the representative of the Golan Heights settlements, said that the Golan Heights settlements will help the Yamit District settlements as much as they can in order to prevent an evacuation. The secretary of the Ne'ot Sinai settlements, Yizhaq Negev, said that it was once said of his settlement that it was the first step toward peace while now it is said to be an obstacle to peace. The prime minister had even joined this settlement.

Some of the Yamit settlers tried to disrupt the rally. They said they do not want to be an obstacle to peace and if they are required to leave the place they will do so.

MA'ALE HA'ADUMIM SETTLERS LEAVING SITE

TA260910Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Herbrew 0900 GMT 26 Sep 78 TA

[Text] The 60 families living in Ma'ale Ha'adumim have informed the governor of Bethlehem that they are leaving the settlement. This is in protest at the cabinet's decision to evacuate the Yamit strip. The families from Ma'ale Ha'adumim say that they will leave this evening at 1700 and will move to Jerusalem. Correspondent Shemu'el Tal says that there is still normal activity going on in Ma'ale Ha'adumim.

SHAH COMMENTS ON CURRENT SITUATION, EVENTS

LD222108Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1716 GMT 22 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Here is an exclusive interview which the shah of Iran has given to our special correspondent Edouard Sablier in Tehran. The shah first brought up the liberalization which was introduced 2 years ago: [begin recording]

[Shah] Mr Sablier, we inaugurated what we call the policy of liberalization 2 years ago. We have engaged in a continuous process of opening doors. And it must be said that the recent incidents started basically somewhere about the month of January. We have had cases of violence, arson, attacks on banks and institutions, bookstores have been set on fire, television relay stations have been demolished--things like that.

And there have also been victims, of course, in clashes--and this continued when, I believe, they changed their methods. Frequent daily clashes ultimately turned into demonstrations and marches. The last one took place exactly 2 weeks ago. It was an illegal demonstration since they had not been allowed to march through the streets and obstruct traffic without a permit. The demonstration--the last one--was led completely, according to reports we received, by communists and terrorists. One had only to look at their slogan "A Democratic Republic" and other slogans, which I am not going to quote but which were all inflammatory, of course.

So this was a decision that had to be made here: either to let go or to keep the country independent. I chose the second solution and, basically, if you examine the situation, since then there has been almost complete calm throughout the country, while previously, every day, there used to be here and there victims--dead or wounded people--and above all fires and terrible destruction. This is roughly what has happened.

[Sablier] How long do you think you will keep martial law?

[Answer] It has been approved by parliament for 6 months, but you hope all the time, don't you, to be able to settle things before that time.

The road of reforms is not a road anyone will be able to divert or block. We shall continue. Of course, the country's independence will have to be safeguarded, too, at the same time.

[Question] So I would like to ask you a question: Do you believe that in this country, which you have now been leading for 37 years, there exist sufficient well-qualified political personnel to assist you in your task, or is all power now invested in the sovereign because such personnel do not exist?

[Answer] Well, first of all, all power is not vested in the sovereign. I think the government I have formed is a good one, and it is a government which shoulders all of its responsibility. Thus, we have begun to do all that has to be done.

[Question] One of the objections that has been raised against the government recently is that it has frequently failed to completely observe the constitution.

[Answer] Of course, all these things can be said, but when the constitution was written less than 1 percent of the people were literate. Today more than 50 percent are literate, and we hope that a decade from now there will not be any more illiterates. Progress produces changes, of course.

[Question] Well then, when the religious leaders demand, for example, a pure and simple return to the constitution of 1906, which provided for a committee of religious leaders precisely to give an opinion on or veto most decisions, what do you think about that?

[Answer] And on the laws?

[Question] And on the laws.

[Answer] Well, if this could be a solution to achieve an understanding, why not?

[Question] But do you believe in it?

[Answer] If it is really a matter of respecting religion, I am just as religious as anyone.

[Question] Is it only at the religious level?

[Answer] What was inscribed in the constitution, yes.

[Question] At this stage, to conclude, I am going to take the liberty of asking you a few questions about the grievances which I have recorded more or less everywhere, some of which I know are unjustified but others that deserve an answer. If you will kindly reply, this might clarify the situation:

Many say: Iran is a satellite of America. I am using a strong term because I would like it to shock you.

[Answer] I don't think that this is true at all. We pursue a policy of national independence and have proven this on every occasion.

[Question] Then there is the word people utter immediately--whenever Iran is mentioned people say: Savak. So may I be allowed to utter the word? What is it becoming? What is it?

[Answer] Oh, Savak is basically becoming what you have in your country, or in England, or in America, or even in Germany. In any case, the aim of Savak is to learn the truth, and to uncover clandestine and subversive activities launched from abroad.

[Question] From abroad?

[Answer] From abroad, yes. Of course, if there are citizens who unfortunately become instruments of foreign forces, they are then also covered.

[Question] In the course of our previous conversations you have often spoken to me about the political and administrative training which his majesty reza shah, your father, gave you--the training you received to be able to rule. Do you think that you have given the same training to your son? Is the crown prince able, well, to assume responsibility when you give him some?

[Answer] Oh, I hope so. But a little time is needed, after all.

[Question] Yes, but from the point of view of the training you have carried out?

[Answer] Of course, this will be quite different. The training I had has enabled me to do what I have had to do, and the training the crown prince will receive will be different from mine, naturally, because one has to march with the times.

[Question] Have you already involved him in affairs of state? Initiated him, let us say?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] to say it, really, because he had to study seriously. He has completed his studies and is now in America at an aviation school, and when he comes back we shall start. [end recording]

AFP: NEW PRIVATE ADVISER TO SHAH APPOINTED

TA231822Y Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 23 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Tehran Sep 23 (AFP)--Former Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Qoli Ardalan will become the new court minister, effectively the shah's private adviser, an informed source said today. Mr Ardalan was foreign minister 20 years ago, resigning in 1959. He will succeed Amir Abbas Hoveyda, who resigned 14 days ago in the wake of the "bloody Friday" riots in Tehran, the sources said.

The man expected to take over comes from an influential Kurdish family. He was foreign minister from 1957-9 and has also been minister of industry and mines and ambassador to Turkey, the United States, the Soviet Union and West Germany.

PRIME MINISTER SHARIF-EMAMI DISCUSSES CURFEW

LD241754Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Sep 78 LD

[Text] In an interview with German newspaper SEUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami has said that so far 1,106 people have been arrested under the martial law regulations. These include those who have been arrested for various offenses, including disregard of curfew regulations, on a short-term basis. At present there are still 117 people in detention while 989 people having been released. The prime minister has said the government intends to end the martial law as soon as possible and that the imposition of martial law should not be construed in any way as an end to the liberalization policy.

CURFEW IN TEHRAN, DISTRICT REDUCED 1 HOUR

LD241100Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 24 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The Military Governorate of Tehran and district issued announcement No 12 and reduced the curfew hours in Tehran and district by 1 hour. Announcement No 12 of the Military Governorate of Tehran and district is as follows:

In order to realize greater comfort for the esteemed people of Tehran and district and to facilitate public mobility, the curfew hours in the area under this military governorate which have been set, according to announcement No 11, from 2300 to 0430, have been changed hereby to take effect as of 2400 until 0430 the next morning.

The esteemed members of the public are expected to observe the martial law regulations and thus further cooperate in the realization of the public order.

[Signed] Military governor of Tehran and district, Gen Gholam 'Ali-Oveysi.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR UNGA SESSION

LD232148Y Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Mr Amir Khosrwo Afshar, left for the United States at the head of the Iranian delegation to the UN General Assembly.

AFGHANISTAN

AFP REPORTS REFUGEES FLEEING FROM REGIME

BK241644Y Hong Kong in English 1634 GMT 24 Sep 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 24 (AFP)--Eight or nine thousand Afghans have fled from their country's new "revolutionary" regime and entered Pakistan in recent weeks, according to an informed source here. Whole families of refugees with their livestock and household goods have poured into the Dir and Chitral districts of northwest Pakistan and Waziristan in the west, said the source.

Reports of fierce fighting between the Afghan Army and Pathan tribesmen in eastern Afghanistan have been reaching here since a coup brought pro-Soviet President Nur Mohammad Taraki to power on April 27. But the new Kabul authorities have never officially admitted the existence of a guerrilla force in this area.

Attacks on isolated army posts have been claimed by opposition groups formed immediately after the coup, notably the religiously-motivated "Hezbi-Islami" group. Air attacks on Pathan tribesmen by Afghan Government forces have been reported by the opposition. Dozens on both sides have been killed in guerrilla fighting, they say. No serious confirmation by independent observers has been possible because of the mountainous and trackless nature of eastern Afghanistan.

Informed Pakistani sources said refugees began to cross the Afghan border several days after the April coup and have continued steadily since.

Pakistan is thought to have refrained from officially confirming this influx to protect already strained relations with Afghanistan.

The new Afghan regime has campaigned for an independent state for Pushtu-speaking peoples, including the Pathan tribe divided at present by the "Durand line" dating from colonial times.

If the influx of Pathan refugees from the Afghan side of the border continued it could have serious consequences in Dir, Chitral and Waziristan, observers said. These Pathan tribal areas, loosely under Pakistan Government control, remain chronically short of foodstuffs, especially cereals, they said.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO BORDER COMMISSION TALKS LEAVES

LD222020Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 22 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The high-ranking Soviet delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador Zaykin, who came to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] to participate in the (?11th) round of talks of the DRA-USSR joint commission for border affairs, left for home yesterday after attending the talks. At Kabul International Airport, the chief Afghan delegate to the joint commission, Abdol Ghani Karimi, and His Excellency Alekseyev, minister plenipotentiary at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, saw the delegation off. In a followup to their earlier discussions, the latest session of the joint commission in Kabul discussed fortification of the banks of the border rivers between the two countries.

PDP POLITICAL BUREAU MEETS UNDER TARAKI

LD231850Y Kabul in Pushtu and Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The People's Democratic Party (PDP) Central Committee Political Bureau held a meeting under Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the PDP, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, from 1000 to 1300 at the People's House today. At the outset, a report on the recent visit of the high-ranking DRA party and government delegation to the DPRK was submitted by Comrade Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the PDP Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of public works. Similarly, Comrade Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the PDP Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of agriculture and land reform, gave a report on the visit of the high-ranking DRA party and government delegation to socialist Ethiopia. At the end of its meeting, the Political Bureau discussed economic activities of the DRA and made necessary assessments in this respect.

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT RAHMAN RETURNS HOME FROM SINGAPORE VISIT

BK221300Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 22 Sep 78 BK

[Text] President Zia has described his 2-day state visit to Singapore as a great breakthrough in our external relation. He was talking to newsmen on his return home last night at the end of his 2-day visit to Singapore.

The president said: During the last 3 years our foreign policy has developed as a dynamic and forward-looking one. He said there has been a major shift in our foreign policy and we are trying to build up good relations with Southeast Asian nations and the Far East. The visit to Singapore, strategically an important country, should therefore be considered as important and meaningful. The president said his visit to Singapore although short had enabled us to achieve a lot of things in economic and other fields.

President Zia said his talks with the Singapore leaders have led to some important decisions. Singapore has agreed to cooperate with Bangladesh in several joint venture projects, including refrigeration, airconditioning, electric goods, [words indistinct] mill and shipbuilding. He said a Singapore technical delegation will shortly visit Bangladesh to work out details of these projects.

The president said an agreement has also been reached on setting up joint ventures through negotiations in other fields like shoe making, oil and gas, readymade garments, toothpaste and hotel industry. In addition, negotiations will also be held for expanding cooperation in banking services.

The president told newsmen that Bangladesh will also seek cooperation in the field of education. Singapore, he said, has already developed a well-organized education system and Bangladesh can well utilize their experience in this field. A Bangladesh delegation will go to Singapore shortly for this purpose.

President Zia also spoke of the bright prospect for the increased volume of exports from Bangladesh to Singapore. He said Bangladesh has proposed cooperation in the field of finished jute products. In this context, the president made a point referring to the importance of the quality control in our exports to foreign countries. He said unless it is done we may lose the potential markets outside. He urged the Bangladesh traders to take special care in exporting quality products.

The president said a metropolitan police delegation will also visit Singapore to study measures for modernizing our police force.

He said Singapore will also set up its trade mission in Dacca in the near future. The president said Singapore has also agreed to withdraw the present restrictions on the passenger quota of the Bangladesh Biman.

President Zia said the two countries also hope to cooperate in the manpower sector, as Singapore is highly developed in manpower utilization.

In reply to a question the president said that Singapore has [words indistinct] and the prime minister has accepted an invitation to visit Bangladesh.

To Visit Romania, Turkey

BK241220Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 24 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, Sep 24 (AFP)--Bangladesh President General Ziaur Rahman will pay official visits to Romania and Turkey early next month, it is learnt here reliably.

An ensuing visit beginning on October 2 will also take him to Teheran for a brief stopover during which he is expected to meet the shah of Iran.

An official announcement on the visit, which comes within a fortnight of Zia's 24-hour trip to Singapore and within a month of his 3-day sojourn in Pyongyang, is expected to be made later this month.

'APPREHENSIONS' SLOW REPATRIATIONS TO BURMA

BK241230Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 24 Sep 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, Sep 24 (AFP)--Apprehension and rumours among the Burmese refugees that they may be subjected to atrocities again on their return coupled with certain strict formalities on categorisation by the Burmese authorities have slowed the process of repatriation of over 200,000 Moslem refugees under an agreement signed by Bangladesh and Burma in July.

According to the agreement, the first batch of about 200 refugees were to leave camps in Bangladesh for their homes in Burma on August 31. This was to be followed by a regular arrangement beginning September 15 under which about 2,000 refugees (200 from each of ten camps) would cross the border twice a week. The entire process of repatriation, as per agreement, was to be completed in 6 months time beginning from the date of departure of the first batch.

Officials are now maintaining strict secrecy and silence on repatriation of the refugees and no figure was officially available as to how many of them have actually been repatriated.

On the day repatriation began, a brief official announcement came at night saying the first batch of refugees accompanied by a UN official crossed the border for their homes in Burma. No figure was however given. Since then no news was available officially on the repatriation except that Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq, while replying to questions, said at a press conference on September 15 that the second batch of refugees was to leave on the same day. There was no official word as yet whether second or subsequent batches have left for home according to schedule.

Informed sources said the first batch which left on August 31 included only 58 refugees instead of the stipulated 200. In the second batch on September 15, only 10 crossed the border. On September 18, not a single refugee could be repatriated, but on September 21 a batch of 127 of them was sent home. According to arrangements under the agreement, about 6,200 refugees were to return till September 21, but actually only 195 of them are believed to have crossed so far.

Sources said that though the refugees are generally willing to return to their homes in Burma in spite of the atrocities which they were reportedly subjected to during their eviction early this year, there are often rumours in their camps to the effect that they might not be welcomed by local mogh [Buddhist tribesmen] population who have already occupied their abandoned houses and lands. This together with strict categorisation of returning refugees by the Burmese side, which often result in splitting of families, had reportedly created suspicion among them and shaken their confidence.

A Dacca official said that the insistence of the Burmese authorities on repatriating the refugees strictly on the basis of different categories of holders of NRC [national registration cards] was "creating problems" in repatriation. This has "no basis" in the agreement, he added.

Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq recently said in Dacca that Bangladesh had given shelter to Burmese refugees purely for humanitarian reasons. For the same consideration Bangladesh would not like to adopt harsh measures for pushing these refugees back physically by force.

Informed sources said that Bangladesh was already in contact with Rangoon to suggest the relaxation of certain formalities and take some other measure to restore confidence among the refugees and to quicken the process of repatriation. The sources said that an official delegation may visit Burma next month to review the matter in view of current experiences in the repatriation.

INDIA

DEFENSE MINISTRY DENIES CHINESE HELICOPTER INTRUDED

BK241244Y Bombay PTI in English 1236 GMT 24 Sep 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI)--A spokesman of the Indian Defence Ministry said here today that there was no truth in a newspaper report that a Chinese helicopter had crossed into Indian territory early this month in the Nanda Devi area. The newspaper had reported that the helicopter had hovered [around] Nanda Devi for a couple of hours and disappeared into the distance over the other side and that the Chinese helicopter was not intercepted. The defence authorities at New Delhi were informed about the incident.

There had been no such incident, the spokesman said.

VAJPAYEE DISCUSSES POLICY TOWARD PRC, SOUTHEAST ASIA

BK221511Y Delhi ISI in English 1433 GMT 22 Sep 78 BK

[Text] Addressing the Janata Party workers of Jaipur city on September 22, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the external affairs minister, said that India's relations with her neighbours had improved after the Janata Party came into power. He said that India's prestige had gone up in the world and the government was trying to enhance it further.

Referring to criticism of India's foreign policy, Vajpayee said that India believed not in "diplomacy" but in the policy of universal good.

Vajpayee referred to his proposed visit to China and said that he was not going to China on his own but on an invitation from China. To place the condition that talks between India and China could take place only when China vacated Indian territory would not be an act of prudence. "Why should one be afraid of talks? We talk not because of any fear, but we are also not afraid to talk," he declared.

Hitting hard at the critics of India's foreign policy, Vajpayee said that they would safeguard India's honour of her strength [as received]. They would also talk for the return of India's territory. Neither anyone could sell India nor anyone could purchase this country, he said. The government, Vajpayee added, did not want to give any opportunity to China to say that India had not responded to its invitation.

The minister for external affairs said in Jaipur on September 22 that India could not live in segregation and had to extend its arms of friendship to every nation, particularly those situated in the Southeast Asian region.

Speaking at a function organised by a body of researchers, Vajpayee said that the Janata government had given a new direction to the country's foreign policy, extending its arms of cooperation and friendship to all nations. Vajpayee said the Janata government was keen to see that Southeast Asia was not put in turmoil once again and the countries there did not fight with each other. It was therefore imperative and it was also their firm desire that the entire Southeast Asia be made a "peace zone" with each country respecting the freedom of the other. The countries in this region should believe in solving their problems through negotiations and not through show of force.

None of the countries in this region should interfere in other's internal politics or happenings, thereby minimising tension between them, and finally all the countries of the zone should respect each other's existing border and consider it as "inviolable."

He said the day the Janata government took over they gave a new dimension to the country's foreign policy with the decision that they must make all the neighbouring countries their friends even by making some sacrifices, if necessary. Vajpayee said there was no doubt that with the neighbouring countries and particularly those in the Southeast Asian region they had very very old cultural relations. But that was not enough. They were to extend other help to them. And that was in the field of technology and economy. "We are to make up the loss we made in the past by extending to the nations in Southeast Asia all help and cooperation," he said.

Vajpayee said India was a big country with huge resources of men and material. It had enormous skilled manpower. It had most up-to-date and sophisticated technology. All these could be made available to these countries. In this connection, Vajpayee mentioned a number of technological collaborations India was having with a number of neighbouring Southeast Asian countries. These not only helped Indian trade expansion but also helped in economic and technological development of the friendly neighbouring countries. He mentioned how they had to solve the Farakka problem to win over Bangladesh's friendship by making a little sacrifice. He also referred to how Nepal, another friendly neighbour, held India in high esteem. He mentioned how India had made contributions towards Vietnam's rehabilitation.

Policy Toward Pakistan, Afghanistan

BK231622Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, has expressed the hope that Pakistan will finally quit military blocs. Speaking on India's foreign policy objectives in New Delhi today, he said though Pakistan has not come out of these blocs it has turned its face slightly the other way.

Mr Vajpayee defended India's stand on Pakistan being present at the nonalined conference at Belgrade as a guest. He recalled that the criteria for attending the nonalined conferences were slightly modified at the Colombo summit.

Referring to some differences between the approaches of India and Afghanistan, he stressed that these were minor. There is complete agreement between the two countries on all major issues.

He underlined that labels like "progressives" and "reactionaries" have lost their meaning. Mr Vajpayee said there are no differences in the country over the basic objectives of its foreign policy. India's relations with its neighbors have greatly improved since the assumption of office by the Janata government and there is a new atmosphere of faith and trust.

PTI QUOTES VAJPAYEE ON DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS

BK230154Y Bombay PTI in English 0130 GMT 23 Sep 78 BK

[Text] Jaipur, Sep 23 (PTI)--Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister for external affairs, has said that talk of arms race in India and Pakistan without taking into consideration India's defence requirements, which were vital in nature and extensive in character, had no meaning.

Talking to newsmen at the Sanganer airport here yesterday before his departure for Delhi, Mr Vajpayee said, "India has to take care of its long north border also".

Mr Vajpayee said that India needed a matching plane for the Mirage for self-defence. Security of the country was the first consideration. India would not be pressurised by anyone.

The foreign minister said that after Bangladesh, Pakistan's security obligations had been reduced. Its area was less and forces were not dispersed. "We have to defend a long border", he added.

PRIVATE SECTOR ASKED TO INCREASE DEFENSE PRODUCTION

BK250954Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The minister of state for defense production, Prof Sher Singh, has said that priority is being given to the indigenous manufacture of high value items which are at present being purchased in foreign exchange.

Speaking to newsmen in Luchnow, Prof Sher Singh said that available capacity in the private sector will also be utilized for manufacturing selected defense equipment. The critical items and finished products will continue to be produced in the defense factories. He said the defense production will touch a new high of 10 billion rupees this year as compared to 8.5 billion last year.

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